



Planning Inspectorate  
Arolygiaeth Gynllunio

---

## **SCOPING OPINION:**

# **Proposed Stanlow Hydrogen Ready Modular Combined Heat and Power Project**

**Case Reference: EN0110007**

---

Adopted by the Planning Inspectorate (on behalf of the Secretary of State)  
pursuant to Regulation 10 of The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental  
Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017

**13 October 2026**

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

|                                                                          |                                               |          |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|----------|
| <b>1.</b>                                                                | <b>INTRODUCTION.....</b>                      | <b>1</b> |
| <b>2.</b>                                                                | <b>OVERARCHING COMMENTS.....</b>              | <b>3</b> |
| 2.1                                                                      | Description of the Proposed Development.....  | 3        |
| 2.2                                                                      | EIA Methodology and Scope of Assessment ..... | 5        |
| <b>3</b>                                                                 | <b>ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECT COMMENTS.....</b>     | <b>7</b> |
| 3.1                                                                      | Heat and Radiation.....                       | 7        |
| 3.2                                                                      | Air Quality.....                              | 8        |
| 3.3                                                                      | Noise and Vibration .....                     | 10       |
| 3.4                                                                      | Biodiversity.....                             | 12       |
| 3.5                                                                      | Cultural Heritage .....                       | 15       |
| 3.6                                                                      | Landscape and Visual.....                     | 16       |
| 3.7                                                                      | Water Environment and Flood Risk.....         | 18       |
| 3.8                                                                      | Climate Resilience.....                       | 20       |
| 3.9                                                                      | Greenhouse Gases .....                        | 24       |
| 3.10                                                                     | Socio-economics.....                          | 26       |
| 3.11                                                                     | Population and Human Health .....             | 27       |
| 3.12                                                                     | Materials and Waste.....                      | 29       |
| 3.13                                                                     | Ground Conditions and Soils.....              | 30       |
| 3.14                                                                     | Transport and Movement .....                  | 32       |
| 3.15                                                                     | Major Accidents and Disasters.....            | 34       |
| 3.16                                                                     | Cumulative Effects .....                      | 38       |
| <br><b>APPENDIX 1: CONSULTATION BODIES FORMALLY CONSULTED</b>            |                                               |          |
| <br><b>APPENDIX 2: RESPONDENTS TO CONSULTATION AND COPIES OF REPLIES</b> |                                               |          |

## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.0.1 On 02 September 2026, the Planning Inspectorate (the Inspectorate) received an application for a Scoping Opinion from Essar Energy Transition Fuels (EET Fuels) (the applicant) under regulation 10 of The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (The EIA Regulations) for the proposed Stanlow Hydrogen Ready Modular Combined Heat and Power Project (the proposed development). The applicant notified the Secretary of State (SoS) under regulation 8(1)(b) of those regulations that they propose to provide an Environmental Statement (ES) in respect of the proposed development and by virtue of regulation 6(2)(a), the proposed development is 'EIA development'.
- 1.0.2 The applicant provided the necessary information to inform a request under EIA regulation 10(3) in the form of a Scoping Report, available from:
- <https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN0110007/documents>
- 1.0.3 This document is the Scoping Opinion (the Opinion) adopted by the Inspectorate on behalf of the SoS. This Opinion is made on the basis of the information provided in the Scoping Report, reflecting the proposed development as currently described by the applicant. This Opinion should be read in conjunction with the applicant's Scoping Report.
- 1.0.4 The Inspectorate has set out in the following sections of this Opinion where it has/ has not agreed to scope out certain aspects/ matters on the basis of the information provided as part of the Scoping Report. The Inspectorate is content that the receipt of this Scoping Opinion should not prevent the applicant from subsequently agreeing with the relevant consultation bodies to scope such aspects/ matters out of the ES, where further evidence has been provided to justify this approach. However, in order to demonstrate that the aspects/ matters have been appropriately addressed, the ES should explain the reasoning for scoping them out and justify the approach taken.
- 1.0.5 Before adopting this Opinion, the Inspectorate has consulted the 'consultation bodies' listed in appendix 1 in accordance with EIA regulation 10(6). A list of those consultation bodies who replied within the statutory timeframe (along with copies of their comments) is provided in appendix 2. These comments have been taken into account in the preparation of this Opinion.
- 1.0.6 The Inspectorate has published a series of advice pages, including '[Pre-application advice for Environmental Impact Assessment](#)'. This provides guidance on EIA processes during the pre-application stages and advice to support applicants in the preparation of their ES.
- 1.0.7 Applicants should have particular regard to the standing advice in 'Pre-application advice for Environmental Impact Assessment', alongside other advice notes on the Planning Act 2008 (PA2008) process, available from:

['Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice pages'](#)

- 1.0.8 This Opinion should not be construed as implying that the Inspectorate agrees with the information or comments provided by the applicant in their request for an opinion from the Inspectorate. In particular, comments from the Inspectorate in this Opinion are without prejudice to any later decisions taken (e.g. on formal submission of the application) that any development identified by the applicant is necessarily to be treated as part of a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) or associated development or development that does not require development consent.

## 2. OVERARCHING COMMENTS

### 2.1 Description of the Proposed Development

(Scoping Report section 2)

| ID    | Ref             | Description                    | Inspectorate's comments                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|-------|-----------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2.1.1 | Paragraph 1.1.9 | Programme overlap with Phase 1 | The Scoping Report indicates that the construction of Phase 1 of the wider development may overlap with Phase 2 (the proposed development). The applicant is advised to ensure that, should an overlap be proposed in the construction programme, this is accounted for in the assessments in the ES.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 2.1.2 | Section 2.4     | Water usage                    | It is proposed to utilise water within the heating and cooling of the proposed development operation, however, this has not been discussed or assessed further in the aspect chapters, other than stating that no potable water will be used for the operation aside from for welfare use. The source and amount of water proposed to be used as part of the development should be set out in the ES and used within aspect chapter assessments as necessary.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 2.1.3 | Section 2.7     | Decommissioning                | The Scoping Report states that impacts associated with decommissioning cannot be assessed at this time and very limited details regarding decommissioning have been included. For the avoidance of doubt, the ES should include a high-level assessment of decommissioning effects as far as practicable. The ES should provide a description of any known activities and works which are likely to be required during decommissioning of the proposed development. Where the construction phase has been scoped in on the basis that significant effects could occur, this suggests that there is potential for significant effects to occur during the decommissioning phase. Where decommissioning effects are considered to be similar or no worse than effects which could occur during construction, a justification for this position should be provided. The Inspectorate recommends that an outline decommissioning environmental management plan (oDEMP) is submitted with the development consent order (DCO) application. |

| ID    | Ref              | Description                | Inspectorate's comments                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|-------|------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2.1.4 | Paragraph 12.8.2 | Flexibility of fuel source | The proposed development is described throughout as using hydrogen fuel only, however the greenhouse gas (GHG) assessment states that a combination of refinery fuel gas and natural gas will be used for operation should hydrogen not be available. The ES should confirm this in the project description whether the proposed development would be able to utilise other fuels should hydrogen not be available. |

## 2.2 EIA Methodology and Scope of Assessment

(Scoping Report section 3)

| ID    | Ref                         | Description                              | Inspectorate's comments                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|-------|-----------------------------|------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2.2.1 | Paragraphs 3.3.53 to 3.3.54 | In-Combination Climate Impact Assessment | The Scoping Report states that an In-Combination Climate Impacts (ICCI) Assessment will be undertaken, however, the climate resilience chapter does not describe this aspect of the assessment. The Inspectorate would expect the ICCI assessment to be referenced within the climate resilience chapter, particularly given its reliance on the future climate baseline.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 2.2.2 | Paragraphs 3.3.30 to 3.3.33 | Transboundary                            | <p>The Inspectorate on behalf of the SoS has considered the proposed development and concludes that the proposed development is unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or cumulatively on the environment in a European Economic Area State. In reaching this conclusion the Inspectorate has identified and considered the proposed development's likely impacts including consideration of potential pathways and the extent, magnitude, probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the impacts.</p> <p>The Inspectorate considers that the likelihood of transboundary effects resulting from the proposed development is so low that it does not warrant the issue of a detailed transboundary screening. However, this position will remain under review and will have regard to any new or materially different information coming to light which may alter that decision.</p> <p>Note: The SoS' duty under regulation 32 of the 2017 EIA Regulations continues throughout the application process.</p> <p>The Inspectorate's screening of transboundary issues is based on the relevant considerations specified in the annex to its Advice Page</p> |

| ID | Ref | Description | Inspectorate's comments                                                                                                                               |
|----|-----|-------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|    |     |             | 'Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on Transboundary Impacts and Process', links for which can be found in paragraph 1.0.7 above. |

### 3 ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECT COMMENTS

#### 3.1 Heat and Radiation

(Scoping Report section 4)

| ID    | Ref              | Applicant's proposed aspect to scope out | Inspectorate's comments                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|-------|------------------|------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 3.1.1 | Paragraph 4.2.11 | Heat and radiation                       | The applicant proposes to scope out an assessment of heat and radiation on the basis that significant sources of such emissions are not anticipated. It is understood that typically this type of development would incorporate the capture and reuse of the heat, however this has not been specified within the project description. On this basis and subject to the provision of information to confirm that the proposed development includes facilities to recover the heat generated as part of the energy generation process, and the extent of that recovery, then the inspectorate is content to scope this matter out. In line with schedule 4 of the EIA Regulations, the ES should include an estimate by type and quantity of expected emissions including heat and radiation emissions. |

## 3.2 Air Quality

(Scoping Report section 5)

| ID    | Ref       | Applicant's proposed matters to scope out                                                   | Inspectorate's comments                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|-------|-----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 3.2.1 | Table 5.5 | Non-Road Mobile Machinery (NRMM) emissions on human and ecological receptors – construction | <p>The Scoping Report proposes to scope out NRMM emissions during construction of the proposed development on the basis of the temporary nature of these activities and distance to sensitive receptors.</p> <p>Based on the information presented in the Scoping Report, the Inspectorate considers that significant effects are unlikely and is content for this matter to be scoped out of further assessment. However, the ES should confirm the types of NRMM to be used, the activities they will undertake, and the associated likely emissions in order to justify this position.</p> <p>The ES should also describe any proposed mitigation measures and clearly identify how these measures will be secured through the DCO and related documents, including the Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP).</p> |
| 3.2.2 | Table 5.5 | Road vehicle emissions on human and ecological receptors – operation                        | <p>The Scoping Report states that given the minimal increase in traffic compared to existing levels, the impact of operational traffic on local air quality is not expected to be significant.</p> <p>On the basis of the information presented in the Scoping Report, the Inspectorate is content that this matter can be scoped out of further assessment. However, the ES should confirm the operational vehicle types and numbers (with reference to thresholds within relevant Institute of Air Quality Management (IAQM) guidance) to justify this position.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 3.2.3 | Table 5.5 | Odour emissions on human receptors – operation                                              | <p>The Scoping Report states that there would be no sources of odour from the proposed development. On the basis of the information presented in the Scoping Report, the Inspectorate is content that this matter can be scoped out of further assessment.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |

| ID    | Ref                                  | Description                                | Inspectorate's comments                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|-------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 3.2.4 | Paragraph 5.4.5                      | Study area for operational plant emissions | The Scoping Report states that a 2 kilometre (km) study area will be used to determine the potential for impacts on human receptors and ecological sites of local and national importance, and that a 10km study area will be used to determine the potential for air quality impacts on designated ecological sites of international importance. However, it is unclear on what basis these study areas have been proposed. The ES should justify the study areas used to identify potential for significant air quality impacts on human and ecological receptors, and the selection of study areas should be discussed and agreed with relevant statutory bodies. |
| 3.2.5 | Paragraphs 5.5.18, 5.6.4, figure 5.1 | Sensitive receptors                        | The Scoping Report states that sensitive human receptors are located within 250 metres (m) of the site boundary and 50m of potential transportation routes. However, figure 5.1 only shows the location of sensitive ecological receptors in relation to the proposed development. The ES should be accompanied by an appropriate plan illustrating the location of sensitive human air quality receptors within the study area to aid understanding of the extent of effects.                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 3.2.6 | N/A                                  | Amines                                     | The applicant's attention is drawn to the comments from NE at appendix 2 of this Opinion regarding the need to assess the contribution of amines to nitrogen deposition should these be used in place of carbon capture technology.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 3.2.7 | N/A                                  | Guidance                                   | The applicant's attention is drawn to the Defra advice 'PM2.5 Targets: Interim Planning Guidance'. The ES should explain how key sources of air pollution within the proposed development have been identified and how action has been taken to minimise emissions of PM2.5 or its precursors.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |

### 3.3 Noise and Vibration

(Scoping Report section 6)

| ID    | Ref              | Applicant's proposed matters to scope out                                                   | Inspectorate's comments                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|-------|------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 3.3.1 | Tables 6.4, 17.6 | Traffic noise on sensitive receptors adjacent to construction traffic routes – construction | <p>The Scoping Report states that as traffic routes local to the proposed development site currently experience substantial traffic flows, it is anticipated that construction traffic will be diluted in existing flows such that significant noise level changes will not occur.</p> <p>Table 17.6 of the Scoping Report states that there will be approximately 300 people onsite at the peak of the construction phase. In addition, materials will be delivered by road, however, the anticipated number of heavy goods vehicle (HGV) movements is currently unknown and will be set out in the Transport Assessment that accompanies the ES.</p> <p>The Inspectorate considers that not enough information has been provided to scope this matter out at this stage. The ES should either provide an assessment of this matter or demonstrate why construction traffic noise would not lead to likely significant effects on sensitive receptors adjacent to construction traffic routes.</p> |
| 3.3.2 | Table 6.4        | Traffic noise on sensitive receptors adjacent to the local road network – operation         | <p>The Scoping Report proposes to scope out operational road traffic noise on the basis that road traffic movements associated with the proposed development are expected to be minimal. On the basis of the information presented in the Scoping Report, the Inspectorate is content that this matter can be scoped out of further assessment. However, the ES should confirm the operational vehicle types and numbers (with reference to thresholds within relevant guidance) to justify this position.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 3.3.3 | Table 6.4        | Vibration on sensitive receptors in proximity to the site – operation                       | <p>The Scoping Report states that given the nature of the proposed development sources of significant operational vibration are not anticipated. The Inspectorate agrees that significant effects are not likely and is content that this matter can be scoped out.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |

| ID    | Ref              | Description                           | Inspectorate's comments                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|-------|------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 3.3.4 | Paragraph 6.5.16 | Sensitive receptors/ noise monitoring | <p>The Scoping Report states that there are a number of ecological receptors associated with the Mersey Estuary SPA, Ramsar and Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) with the potential to be affected by noise and vibration from the proposed development. Figure 6.2 only shows the location of sensitive human receptors in relation to the proposed development.</p> <p>The ES should be accompanied by an appropriate plan illustrating the location of sensitive human and ecological noise and vibration receptors within the study area to aid understanding of the extent of effects. Noise monitoring locations should provide an accurate reflection of potential impacts on ecological receptors including features of designated sites or functionally linked land. The applicant's attention is drawn to the comments from NE at appendix 2 of this Opinion for further information.</p> <p>The applicant's attention is also drawn to the comments from the Canal and River Trust at appendix 2 of this Opinion regarding the inclusion of Shropshire Union Canal (SUC) and its users as noise sensitive receptors.</p> |
| 3.3.5 | N/A              | Programme overlap                     | <p>The applicant's attention is drawn to the comments from NE at appendix 2 of this Opinion regarding the need to consider the potential programme overlap between Phases 1 and 2 to ensure potential noise impacts associated with the proposed development are fully assessed.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |

### 3.4 Biodiversity

(Scoping Report section 7)

| ID    | Ref       | Applicant's proposed matters to scope out                                                                                        | Inspectorate's comments                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|-------|-----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 3.4.1 | Table 7.9 | Indirect impacts from localised generation of dust impacting Habitats of Principal Importance (HPI) – construction and operation | The Scoping Report proposes to scope out an assessment of indirect impacts from localised dust emissions impacting HPI on the basis that any potential effects are expected to be managed through embedded mitigation measures. Given the nature of the proposed development and the information provided within the Scoping Report, the Inspectorate agrees to scope this matter out of further assessment.           |
| 3.4.2 | Table 7.9 | Impacts on bats (non-roosting) – construction and operation                                                                      | The Scoping Report proposes to scope out further assessment for non-roosting bats on the basis that there will be high levels of lighting and the site will be unsuitable. In preceding paragraphs, the Scoping Report states that the woodland close to the site is suitable for foraging bats. On this basis the Inspectorate is not content to agree to scope this matter out and an assessment should be provided. |
| 3.4.3 | Table 7.9 | Impacts on great crested newt (GCN) – construction and operation                                                                 | Additional surveys for GCN are proposed to be scoped out from the ES owing to an absence of suitable breeding habitat and an absence of the species in desk study records of the local area.<br><br>The Inspectorate is content to scope out additional surveys for GCN on this basis.                                                                                                                                 |
| 3.4.4 | Table 7.9 | Impacts on reptiles – construction and operation                                                                                 | The Scoping Report proposes to scope this matter out on the basis that no suitable habitat exists on-site, and that there are no recent records of reptiles within 2km of the site and so it is unlikely that reptile species would represent an ecological constraint. On this basis, the Inspectorate is content to scope this matter out.                                                                           |

| ID    | Ref       | Applicant's proposed matters to scope out     | Inspectorate's comments                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|-------|-----------|-----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 3.4.5 | Table 7.9 | Impacts on otter – construction and operation | The Scoping Report states that despite records of otter identified in the desk study, it considers that the application site does not provide suitable habitat for otter. The Scoping Report states that there is a brook to the south of the site that is considered to be sub-optimal, and that the closest record of otter (approximately 515m from the boundary of the proposed development) was in 2014. The Inspectorate agrees with the justification provided and agrees to scope this matter out. |

| ID    | Ref         | Description                         | Inspectorate's comments                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|-------|-------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 3.4.6 | Section 7.6 | Ecological receptors                | The SUC is not recognised as an ecological receptor within the Scoping Report. The ES should include the SUC as a receptor within the baseline.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 3.4.7 | N/A         | Sensitive environmental information | <p>Under Regulation 12(5)(g) of the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR), public bodies have a responsibility to avoid releasing sensitive environmental information that could bring about harm to sensitive or vulnerable ecological features.</p> <p>Sections of the ES containing specific survey and assessment data relating to the location of sensitive species (for example, badgers, rare birds, and plants) or other vulnerable environmental features should be provided in separate annexes by the applicant. This approach reduces the sensitive ecological feature's risk of disturbance, damage, persecution, or commercial exploitation arising from publication.</p> <p>The applicant's approach should be proportionate and only use these separate annexes for species where there is a genuine risk of harm.</p> |

| ID | Ref | Description | Inspectorate's comments                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|----|-----|-------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|    |     |             | All other assessment information should be included in an ES chapter, as normal, with a placeholder providing a justification as to why annexes have been withheld and that a full version of the ES has been submitted to the Inspectorate. |

### 3.5 Cultural Heritage

(Scoping Report section 8)

| ID    | Ref       | Applicant's proposed matters to scope out                                      | Inspectorate's comments                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|-------|-----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 3.5.1 | Table 8.2 | Impacts on buried heritage assets within the site – construction and operation | The Scoping Report proposes to scope out this impact on the basis that any buried assets within the site will have already been significantly truncated or entirely removed by previous development. On this basis, the Inspectorate agrees to scope this matter out of the ES. |

| ID    | Ref             | Description | Inspectorate's comments                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|-------|-----------------|-------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 3.5.2 | Paragraph 8.4.1 | Study area  | The Scoping Report proposes to use a 1km study area for effects arising from changes to the setting of assets. The Inspectorate considers that insufficient justification has been provided for this distance on the basis that the proposed development is visible from across the estuary. The study area defined in the ES should be justified and based on appropriate guidance and a zone of theoretical visibility (ZTV). Efforts should be made to agree the study area with the relevant statutory bodies. |
| 3.5.3 | Paragraph 8.6.1 | Lighting    | The Scoping Report states that high mast towers will be used to provide lighting during the construction phase. The ES should describe the height of these towers and direction of light spill.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |

## 3.6 Landscape and Visual

(Scoping Report section 9)

| ID    | Ref       | Applicant's proposed matters to scope out                                       | Inspectorate's comments                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|-------|-----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 3.6.1 | Table 9.5 | Changes to the national landscape character area – construction and operation   | <p>The Scoping Report proposes to scope this matter out on the basis that the proposed development is located within an existing industrial landscape and so is considered unlikely to result in significant effects on the national landscape character.</p> <p>The Inspectorate agrees that significant effects are not likely and is content that this matter can be scoped out.</p>                                                                                                                  |
| 3.6.2 | Table 9.5 | Changes to local landscape character – construction and operation               | <p>The Scoping Report explains that the proposed development will introduce a new industrial feature into an existing industrial landscape and as such is unlikely to result in significant impacts on the local landscape character.</p> <p>On the basis of the information presented in the Scoping Report, the Inspectorate is content that this matter can be scoped out of further assessment.</p>                                                                                                  |
| 3.6.3 | Table 9.5 | Visual receptors beyond 2km from the site boundary – construction and operation | <p>The Scoping Report explains that beyond 2km from the site boundary of the proposed development the physical separation and level of containment afforded by the existing industrial features associated with the Stanlow Manufacturing Complex (SMC) is such that no significant effects are likely to be experienced by receptors.</p> <p>On the basis of the information presented in the Scoping Report, the Inspectorate is content that this matter can be scoped out of further assessment.</p> |
| 3.6.4 | Table 9.5 | Night-time effects from lighting – construction and operation                   | <p>The Scoping Report proposes to scope out night-time effects from lighting on the basis that lighting associated with the SMC is already present within the landscape, and additional lighting introduced by the proposed development will not result in significant changes to the landscape character or visual amenity of the area.</p>                                                                                                                                                             |

| ID | Ref | Applicant's proposed matters to scope out | Inspectorate's comments                                                                                                                                |
|----|-----|-------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|    |     |                                           | On the basis of the information presented in the Scoping Report, the Inspectorate is content that this matter can be scoped out of further assessment. |

| ID    | Ref                        | Description            | Inspectorate's comments                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|-------|----------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 3.6.5 | Paragraphs 8.6.8 and 9.4.2 | Stack heights and ZTVs | <p>Paragraph 9.4.2 of the Scoping Report states that the ZTV plan for the proposed development has been prepared based on an approximate height of 80m for the Heat Recovery Steam Generator (HRSG) Stack. However, paragraph 8.6.8 of the Scoping Report states that the HRSG stack heights remain to be confirmed.</p> <p>In order to demonstrate that the full extent of the proposed development has been assessed, the ZTVs should be based on maximum design parameters to be permitted by the DCO. The ES should clearly evidence and justify the final extent of the ZTVs and ensure that any assessment of significance is based on this maximum extent.</p> |

### 3.7 Water Environment and Flood Risk

(Scoping Report section 10)

| ID    | Ref        | Applicant's proposed matters to scope out                                                                                    | Inspectorate's comments                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|-------|------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 3.7.1 | Table 10.7 | Water Framework Directive (WFD) status of the Gowy (Milton Brook to Mersey) waterbody catchment – construction and operation | <p>The Scoping Report assumes that the culverted Gale Brook through the site will remain unchanged, however, this has not been confirmed. Additionally, Gale Brook flows directly into the River Gowy WFD and therefore adverse effects from the proposed development cannot be ruled out at this stage. On these bases, the Inspectorate is unable to agree to scope this matter out at this stage.</p> <p>The applicant's attention is drawn to the consultation response from the Environment Agency (EA) at appendix 2 of this Opinion.</p> |
| 3.7.2 | Table 10.7 | Groundwater Dependant Terrestrial Ecosystems (GWDTE)                                                                         | As there are currently no GWDTE recorded within or relatively close to the study area, the Inspectorate agrees to scope this matter out from further assessment.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| 3.7.3 | Table 10.7 | Springs                                                                                                                      | As there are no known springs located within the study area, the Inspectorate agrees to scope this matter out of further assessment.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |

| ID    | Ref              | Description                                        | Inspectorate's comments                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|-------|------------------|----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 3.7.4 | Paragraph 10.6.4 | Battery energy storage system (BESS) and firewater | The ES should include consideration of the potential for escape of firewater (water that has been used in firefighting) and contaminants that it may contain as an impact pathway to soil, surface and groundwater receptors. Appropriate mitigation measures should be |

| ID    | Ref        | Description    | Inspectorate's comments                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|-------|------------|----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|       |            |                | set out for any likely significant effects identified. The applicant's attention is drawn to the consultation response from the EA on this matter, at appendix 2 of this Opinion.                                                                                  |
| 3.7.5 | Table 10.7 | Flood defences | <p>The applicant should include an assessment of impacts to existing flood defences, including assets, structures and culverted main rivers.</p> <p>The applicant's attention is drawn to the consultation response from the EA at appendix 2 of this Opinion.</p> |

### 3.8 Climate Resilience

(Scoping Report section 11)

| ID    | Ref                                    | Applicant's proposed matters to scope out                                                                                                                                      | Inspectorate's comments                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|-------|----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 3.8.1 | Tables 11.10, 11.13, paragraph 11.6.13 | All impacts during the construction phase                                                                                                                                      | <p>The Scoping Report proposes to scope out all receptors in the construction phase on the basis that the vulnerability assessment in table 11.10 shows that 'low' vulnerability has been identified for all climate variables and that measures will be incorporated within the outline Code of Construction Practice (CoCP) to manage risks associated with weather-related events and reduce the sensitivity of the receptors to the climate variables.</p> <p>On the basis of the information presented in the Scoping Report, the Inspectorate is content that this matter can be scoped out of further assessment. The outline CoCP submitted as part of the draft DCO should confirm the measures to manage risks associated with weather and climate events during construction and demonstrate how these measures would reduce the vulnerability of the identified receptors.</p> |
| 3.8.2 | Table 11.11                            | Precipitation, humidity storms, and sea level rise impacts to power generation, ancillary equipment and mechanical, electrical, plumbing and heating (MEPH) assets – operation | <p>The Scoping Report identifies the vulnerability of the power generation assets to precipitation, humidity, storms and sea level rise as low vulnerability and therefore proposes to scope out these variables.</p> <p>On the basis of the information presented in the Scoping Report, the Inspectorate is content that these matters can be scoped out of further assessment.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 3.8.3 | Table 11.11                            | Temperature-related impacts to power generation, ancillary                                                                                                                     | <p>The Scoping Report identifies the 'increase in the frequency and intensity of hot days and prolonged hot spell events' and 'increasing frequency and intensity of hot and dry conditions' as medium exposure. However, the indicators of climate risk presented in table 11.6 in relation to Met Office heatwave (events per year) states a projected</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |

| ID    | Ref         | Applicant's proposed matters to scope out                                                  | Inspectorate's comments                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|-------|-------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|       |             | equipment and MEPH assets – operation                                                      | <p>increase to 2.5 heatwave events by the 2050s from a baseline of 0.8 events. The Inspectorate considers that further justification should be provided for the medium exposure rating, including an explanation of how the projected increase in heatwave events has informed the assigned exposure level.</p> <p>The applicant is referred to ID 3.8.9 in relation to the SMC site-wide Climate Change Risk Assessment and Adaptation Plan.</p> <p>The Inspectorate does not agree to scope this matter out at this stage.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 3.8.4 | Table 11.11 | Soil moisture impacts to power generation, ancillary equipment and MEPH assets – operation | <p>The Scoping Report identifies 'changes in soil moisture content coupled with increasing frequency and intensity of hot days' as medium exposure. However, table 11.7 provides soil moisture content projections of which the soil moisture (percentage change to summer) in the 2050s projects a decrease of 21.34%. The Inspectorate considers that further justification should be provided for the medium exposure rating.</p> <p>In addition, it is stated that the detailed design of the structural foundations, piling and below ground equipment such as pipework and cabling will consider ground movement due to changes in soil moisture. This statement is vague, and the ES should provide further information on how this risk would be considered during detailed design and the measures or design principles that may be employed to ensure resilience.</p> <p>The Inspectorate does not agree to scope this matter out at this stage.</p> |
| 3.8.5 | Table 11.11 | Temperature impacts to staff – operation                                                   | <p>The Scoping Report identifies the 'increase in the frequency and intensity of hot days and prolonged hot spell events' and 'increasing frequency and intensity of hot and dry conditions' as low exposure. Given recent heat-related conditions experienced in the UK, the Inspectorate does not agree to scope this matter out at this stage. The Inspectorate draws attention to ID 3.8.7 regarding the determination of exposure and expects the ES to provide further justification for the exposure ratings assigned to heat-related climate risks.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |

| ID    | Ref         | Applicant's proposed matters to scope out                          | Inspectorate's comments                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|-------|-------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 3.8.6 | Table 11.11 | Impacts from all other climate variables to site staff – operation | <p>The Scoping Report identifies the vulnerability of the site staff to precipitation, soil moisture, humidity, storms and sea level as low vulnerability and therefore proposes to scope out these variables.</p> <p>On the basis of the information presented in the Scoping Report, the Inspectorate is content that this matter can be scoped out of further assessment. However, the ES should provide further detail on the measures that would be implemented to manage climate-related risks to site staff and how these would be secured, where relevant.</p> |

| ID    | Ref                                    | Description                                                      | Inspectorate's comments                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|-------|----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 3.8.7 | Paragraph 11.6.6                       | Determination of exposure                                        | The Scoping Report identifies that exposure to each climate variable is rated as high, medium or low based on projected changes in climate identified in section 11.5. However, it is not clear how the climate projections are used to determine the exposure rating. The ES should set out the methodology and criteria used to assign high, medium and low exposure ratings to each climate variable, including how the projected magnitude of change informs the exposure level. |
| 3.8.8 | Paragraphs 11.6.14, 11.6.15            | Sub-asset differing design lives                                 | The Scoping Report states that some sub-assets will have shorter design lives than the overall 25-year design life of the proposed development and that this has been taken into account in the assessment. The ES should identify the assumed design lives of relevant assets, where these differ from the overall design life, and explain how these have been taken into account in the assessment.                                                                               |
| 3.8.9 | Tables 11.11, 11.13, paragraph 11.6.20 | SMC site-wide Climate Change Risk Assessment and Adaptation Plan | The Scoping Report references an existing SMC site-wide Climate Change Risk Assessment and Adaptation Plan. However, this has not been provided as part of the scoping documentation. Where reliance is placed on this document, the ES should identify the relevant measures and explain how these have informed the climate resilience assessment for the proposed development.                                                                                                    |

| ID     | Ref          | Description         | Inspectorate's comments                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|--------|--------------|---------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 3.8.10 | Section 11.7 | Mitigation measures | The Scoping Report identifies high-level climate resilience mitigation measures but provides limited detail regarding the specific measures embedded within the proposed development design. The ES should clearly describe the climate resilience measures incorporated into the design and explain how these measures have informed the assessment of climate-related risks. |

### 3.9 Greenhouse Gases

(Scoping Report section 12)

| ID    | Ref        | Applicant's proposed matters to scope out                                         | Inspectorate's comments                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|-------|------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 3.9.1 | Table 12.5 | Disposal of construction waste (A5)                                               | The Scoping Report proposes to scope out emissions associated with disposal of construction waste (A5) on the basis that waste would predominantly comprise inert excavation material, surplus concrete and recyclable materials and associated emissions are expected to be minimal. The Inspectorate is content that emissions associated with disposal of construction waste are likely to be minimal and that this matter can therefore be scoped out. However, the ES should provide sufficient information on the anticipated construction waste types, quantities and management/ disposal routes to substantiate this assumption.                                                       |
| 3.9.2 | Table 12.5 | Land use, land use change and forestry (A5) and (B8) – construction and operation | <p>The Scoping Report proposes to scope out construction and operation emissions associated with land use, land use change and forestry because the proposed development is predominantly on previously developed land, with limited potential for loss of natural habitat and any habitat loss expected to be replaced, resulting in no significant change in carbon sequestration or associated GHG emissions.</p> <p>On the basis of the information presented in the Scoping Report, the Inspectorate is content that this matter can be scoped out of further assessment.</p>                                                                                                              |
| 3.9.3 | Table 12.5 | Operation (B1)                                                                    | The Scoping Report proposes to scope out operation (B1) emissions as the proposed development is not expected to make extensive use of materials that would release GHG emissions. Limited information is provided on the types of materials anticipated to be required during operation and thus the potential emissions associated with this matter are not yet fully known. Therefore, the Inspectorate does not agree to scope this matter out at this stage. The ES should identify the types of materials anticipated to be required during operation and provide sufficient justification to demonstrate that associated GHG emissions are unlikely to give rise to significant effects. |

| ID    | Ref              | Description            | Inspectorate's comments                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|-------|------------------|------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 3.9.4 | Paragraph 12.3   | Guidance               | Reference should be made in the ES to the relevant provisions of the Overarching NPS for Energy (EN-1) and NPS for Natural Gas Electricity Generating Infrastructure (EN-2).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 3.9.5 | Section 12.7     | Mitigation measures    | Limited information is provided on proposed design, mitigation and enhancement measures for the construction and operational phases of the proposed development. The ES should provide further details regarding these mitigation measures in the ES and describe how these measures will be secured through the DCO where relevant.                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 3.9.6 | Paragraph 12.8.3 | Assessment methodology | The Scoping Report states that the assessment will collect available data and apply suitable emissions factors. The ES should quantify GHG emissions associated with the proposed development and clearly explain the calculation methods and emission factors used. Assumptions, data limitations and uncertainties associated with the calculations should be identified and their implications for the assessment conclusions explained. Where professional judgement is relied upon, the basis for that judgement should be clearly justified. |

### 3.10 Socio-economics

(Scoping Report section 13)

| ID     | Ref        | Applicant's proposed matters to scope out                         | Inspectorate's comments                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|--------|------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 3.10.1 | Table 13.7 | Employment generation (direct, indirect, and induced) – operation | The Scoping Report proposes to scope out this impact on the basis that the proposed development is not anticipated to generate any new employment, and that the staff required for operation and maintenance will replace those not required from the existing combined heat and power facility, therefore not changing overall number of staff. The Inspectorate is in agreement with this approach. |

| ID     | Ref                                 | Description                           | Inspectorate's comments                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|--------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 3.10.2 | Paragraph 13.4.4                    | Construction worker accommodation     | The Scoping Report states that an assumption is made that 80% of the workforce will commute from home and 20% will require local hotel accommodation. The Inspectorate acknowledges that the Scoping Report also states that the exact number of workers who may require temporary accommodation will be confirmed in the ES (paragraph 13.4.4). However, in the event that an exact number is not available to include in the ES, the ES should provide justification for the assumptions used in the assessments. |
| 3.10.3 | Paragraphs 13.4.5, 13.5.12, 13.5.13 | Accommodation study area              | It is not clear from the Scoping Report what the study area is for increased demand for accommodation from temporary workers. It is not clear whether the study area includes Chester (and the extent of the area which is considered to be Chester) or whether the study area includes Liverpool. The ES should justify and define the study area(s) clearly and it would be helpful to show these in a figure.                                                                                                    |
| 3.10.4 | Paragraph 13.8.14                   | Short-, medium- and long-term effects | The Scoping Report states that temporary effects are considered to be those associated with the construction phase and may be short-, medium- or long-term. The ES should define what is considered to be short-, medium- and long-term.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |

### 3.11 Population and Human Health

(Scoping Report section 14)

| ID     | Ref        | Applicant's proposed matters to scope out                    | Inspectorate's comments                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|--------|------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 3.11.1 | Table 14.3 | Private property and housing – construction and operation    | <p>The Scoping Report explains that due to the temporary and constrained nature of the works, existing levels of heavy industrial activity at the proposed development site and distance to private properties that effects on property access will be negligible.</p> <p>On the basis of the information presented in the Scoping Report, the Inspectorate is content that this matter can be scoped out of further assessment.</p> |
| 3.11.2 | Table 14.3 | Community land and assets – construction and operation       | <p>The Scoping Report states that there are limited community and land uses located within the study area, and access to or use of these facilities will not be affected by the construction or operation of the proposed development.</p> <p>On the basis of the information presented in the Scoping Report, the Inspectorate is content that this matter can be scoped out of further assessment.</p>                             |
| 3.11.3 | Table 14.3 | Development land and businesses – construction and operation | <p>The Scoping Report explains that due to the temporary and constrained nature of the works and distance of the site from businesses, effects will be negligible.</p> <p>The Inspectorate agrees that significant effects on development land and businesses are unlikely and is content that this matter can be scoped out of further assessment.</p>                                                                              |
| 3.11.4 | Table 14.3 | Agricultural land holdings – construction and operation      | <p>The Scoping Report states that there are no agricultural land holdings within the study area, and no agricultural land take will be required during construction or operation of the proposed development.</p> <p>The Inspectorate agrees that significant effects on agricultural land holdings are unlikely and is content that this matter can be scoped out of further assessment.</p>                                        |

| ID     | Ref        | Applicant's proposed matters to scope out                             | Inspectorate's comments                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|--------|------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 3.11.5 | Table 14.3 | Walkers, cyclists and horse-riders (WCH) – construction and operation | <p>The Scoping Report explains that while there may be some temporary disruption to pedestrian footpaths and cycle paths during construction, this will be infrequent and managed via temporary road closures. Once operational, the proposed development is not anticipated to impact any routes used by WCH.</p> <p>On the basis of the information presented in the Scoping Report, the Inspectorate is content that this matter can be scoped out of further assessment.</p> |
| 3.11.6 | Table 14.3 | Human health – construction and operation                             | <p>The Scoping Report states that the additional works within the existing SMC are not likely to cause a significant adverse impact on the health of the local population when compared with the baseline conditions of the existing site.</p> <p>On the basis of the information presented in the Scoping Report, the Inspectorate is content that this matter can be scoped out of further assessment.</p>                                                                     |

### 3.12 Materials and Waste

(Scoping Report section 15)

| ID     | Ref        | Applicant's proposed matters to scope out     | Inspectorate's comments                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|--------|------------|-----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 3.12.1 | Table 15.5 | Consumption of material resources – operation | The Scoping Report proposes to scope out this impact on the basis that operational activities are not anticipated to require consumption of material resources beyond those necessary for routine repair and maintenance. The Inspectorate is in agreement with this approach. |
| 3.12.2 | Table 15.5 | Generation and disposal of waste – operation  | The Scoping Report proposes to scope out this impact on the basis that operational activities are not anticipated to generate large volumes of solid waste. The Inspectorate is in agreement with this approach.                                                               |

| ID     | Ref | Description           | Inspectorate's comments                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|--------|-----|-----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 3.12.3 | N/A | Hydrogen availability | The operation of the proposed development requires hydrogen for operation. The availability of hydrogen as a material is not described within the Materials and Waste chapter. The Inspectorate acknowledges that the supply of hydrogen is a key consideration and this is discussed in ID 2.1.4 above. |

### 3.13 Ground Conditions and Soils

(Scoping Report section 16)

| ID     | Ref        | Applicant's proposed matters to scope out                                       | Inspectorate's comments                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|--------|------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 3.13.1 | Table 16.2 | Contaminated dust and soil particulates posing risk to human health – operation | It is proposed that a Remediation Strategy will be implemented during the construction phase which would eliminate the potential for impacts relating to exposure to contaminated soil to occur during operation. The Inspectorate is content that this matter can be scoped out of further assessment for the operational phase. However, the ES should outline the measures in the Remediation Strategy and mechanism by which this is secured.                                                                                                 |
| 3.13.2 | Table 16.2 | Controlled water body contamination – operation                                 | The Scoping Report states that there are no land source-pathway-receptors linkages identified as part of the operational phase. However, given the type of development and potential materials used in the site during operation, the Inspectorate considers that pathways may be present. Limited information has been provided to confirm the proposed measures to avoid controlled waterbody contamination during operation and this should be included within the ES. The Inspectorate does not agree to scope this matter out on this basis. |
| 3.13.3 | Table 16.2 | Agricultural soils – operation                                                  | The Scoping Report states that there should be no permanent loss of soils post-development. On this basis, the Inspectorate is content to scope this matter out of further assessment.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 3.13.4 | Table 16.2 | Mineral resources – construction and operation                                  | The Scoping Report states that the study area does not lie within a mineral resource protection area and proposes to scope out an assessment of the impact of the proposed development on mineral resources. The Inspectorate is content that the proposed development is unlikely to lead to significant effects on mineral resources and agrees to scope this matter out of further assessment.                                                                                                                                                 |

| ID     | Ref        | Applicant's proposed matters to scope out | Inspectorate's comments                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|--------|------------|-------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 3.13.5 | Table 16.2 | Built environment – construction          | The Scoping Report proposes to scope out impacts to the built environment (namely ground pipes and ducting materials) from contaminants on the basis that there would be insufficient time for contaminants to impact structures. The Inspectorate agrees that significant effects are unlikely to occur in relation to this impact during the construction period and therefore this matter can be scoped out. |

| ID     | Ref              | Description             | Inspectorate's comments                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|--------|------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 3.13.6 | Paragraph 16.7.2 | Intrusive investigation | The ES should include a full description of any further intrusive investigation required and confirm how this will be secured. Effort should be made to agree the scope with all relevant statutory bodies. |

### 3.14 Transport and Movement

(Scoping Report section 17)

| ID     | Ref        | Applicant's proposed matters to scope out | Inspectorate's comments                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|--------|------------|-------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 3.14.1 | Table 17.6 | Traffic and movement impacts – operation  | <p>The Scoping Report proposes to scope out operational traffic and movement effects associated with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Severance and pedestrian delay</li> <li>▪ Non-motorised user amenity</li> <li>▪ Fear and intimidation</li> <li>▪ Driver delay</li> <li>▪ Road safety</li> <li>▪ Hazardous loads/ large loads</li> </ul> <p>The Scoping Report states that the operational phase is unlikely to give rise to any significant environmental traffic and movement effects due to the very low traffic movements anticipated during operation of the proposed development. On this basis the Inspectorate is content to scope this matter out of further assessment. However, the ES should confirm the operational vehicle types and numbers (with reference to thresholds within relevant guidance) to justify this position.</p> |

| ID     | Ref             | Description       | Inspectorate's comments                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|--------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 3.14.2 | Paragraph 1.1.9 | Programme overlap | <p>Paragraph 1.1.9 of the Scoping Report states that there may be construction overlap with Phases 1 and 2 of the wider proposed development. Noting that the planning application for Phase 1 is yet to be determined, the ES should consider the potential programme overlap between Phases 1 and 2 to ensure potential traffic impacts associated with the</p> |

| ID     | Ref        | Description                                                                     | Inspectorate's comments                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|--------|------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|        |            |                                                                                 | <p>proposed development are fully assessed. Please also see the Inspectorate's comments at ID 2.1.1 of this Opinion.</p> <p>The applicant's attention is also drawn to the comments from National Highways at appendix 2 of this Opinion regarding the need for engagement with the relevant highways authorities to ensure that the combined impact of construction trips from both project phases can be adequately managed.</p> |
| 3.14.3 | Table 17.6 | Impacts of HGVs and Abnormal Indivisible Loads (AILs) on road surface condition | The applicant's attention is drawn to the comments from Cheshire West and Chester Council regarding the need to assess the potential impacts that significant numbers of HGVs and AILs may have on road surface conditions of the public highway.                                                                                                                                                                                  |

### 3.15 Major Accidents and Disasters

(Scoping Report section 18)

| ID     | Ref        | Applicant's proposed matters to scope out                                                                                               | Inspectorate's comments                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|--------|------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 3.15.1 | Table 18.4 | Natural hazards – geophysical (earthquakes, volcanic activity, landslides, sinkholes and tsunamis)                                      | <p>The Scoping Report explains that the proposed development is not in an active area for earthquakes or volcanic activity, and is not at risk from landslides, sinkholes or tsunamis due to the topography and geology of the area and location inland outside of tsunami risk zones.</p> <p>Based on the justification and evidence presented in the Scoping Report, the Inspectorate is content that risks to or from the proposed development for these matters are not likely to result in significant effects and agrees that these matters can be scoped out of further assessment.</p> |
| 3.15.2 | Table 18.4 | Natural hazards – hydrological (coastal/ fluvial flooding, pluvial flooding, groundwater flooding and avalanches)                       | <p>The Scoping Report explains that while the proposed development site is vulnerable to flooding, existing flood defences are in place to alleviate coastal and fluvial flood risk and other flood risks will be assessed in the Water Environment and Flood Risk chapter of the ES.</p> <p>Based on the justification and evidence presented in the Scoping Report, the Inspectorate is content that risks to or from the proposed development for these matters are not likely to result in significant effects and agrees that these matters can be scoped out of further assessment.</p>  |
| 3.15.3 | Table 18.4 | Natural hazards – climatological and meteorological (cyclones, hurricanes, typhoons, storms/ gales, thunderstorms, wave surges, extreme | <p>The Scoping Report explains that due to weather conditions in the UK, risks associated with these major accident and disaster events can be scoped out of further assessment.</p> <p>The Inspectorate notes that risks associated with thunderstorms and extreme temperatures will be considered in the Construction Design Management (CDM) Risk Register and is content with this approach. Regarding extreme temperatures, please also see the Inspectorate's comments at ID 3.8.3 of this Scoping Opinion.</p>                                                                          |

| ID     | Ref        | Applicant's proposed matters to scope out                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Inspectorate's comments                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|--------|------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|        |            | temperatures, droughts, severe space weather, fog, wildfires and poor air quality)                                                                                                                                                           | Based on the justification and evidence presented in the Scoping Report, the Inspectorate is content that risks to or from the proposed development for these matters are not likely to result in significant effects and agrees that these matters can be scoped out of further assessment.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 3.15.4 | Table 18.4 | Natural hazards – biological (disease epidemics, animal diseases and plants)                                                                                                                                                                 | <p>The Scoping Report states that the proposed development is located in a developed country where the population is in general good health. The proposed development will not be the source of animal diseases, and standard control measures will be implemented to control and manage invasive plants.</p> <p>Based on the justification and evidence presented in the Scoping Report, the Inspectorate is content that risks to or from the proposed development for these matters are not likely to result in significant effects and agrees that these matters can be scoped out of further assessment.</p> |
| 3.15.5 | Table 18.4 | Technological or manmade hazards – societal (public demonstrations, damage to societies and economies, need for/ hindrance of large-scale humanitarian assistance, security risks for humanitarian workers, famine and displaced population) | <p>The Scoping Report states that the proposed development is located in a developed and politically stable country with no direct border with countries experiencing conflicts. Famine is not relevant to the use of the proposed development, and no populations will be displaced as a result of its construction.</p> <p>Based on the information presented in the Scoping Report, the Inspectorate is content that these matters can be scoped out of further assessment.</p>                                                                                                                                |
| 3.15.6 | Table 18.4 | Technological or manmade hazards – industrial and urban                                                                                                                                                                                      | The Scoping Report explains that the risk of nuclear accidents and dam breaches is very low, and there are no records indicating current or historical mining within or adjacent to the proposed development area.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |

| ID     | Ref        | Applicant's proposed matters to scope out                                              | Inspectorate's comments                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|--------|------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|        |            | accidents (nuclear, dam breaches and mines/ storage caverns)                           | Based on the justification and evidence presented in the Scoping Report, the Inspectorate is content that risks to or from the proposed development for these matters are not likely to result in significant effects and agrees that these matters can be scoped out of further assessment.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 3.15.7 | Table 18.4 | Technological or manmade hazards – transport accidents (road, rail and waterways)      | <p>The Scoping Report explains that construction traffic will be routed via roads most suitable for the volume and composition of traffic required, and the construction and operation of the proposed development would not increase the risk of rail or waterway accidents occurring.</p> <p>Based on the justification and evidence presented in the Scoping Report, the Inspectorate is content that risks to or from the proposed development for these matters are not likely to result in significant effects and agrees that these matters can be scoped out of further assessment.</p>            |
| 3.15.8 | Table 18.4 | Technological or manmade hazards – pollution accidents (air, land and water)           | <p>The Scoping Report explains that significant residual air quality effects which could result in a major accidents and disasters (MA&amp;D) event are not anticipated, and risks associated with land and water pollution will be assessed in the Ground Conditions and Soils chapter of the ES.</p> <p>Based on the justification and evidence presented in the Scoping Report, the Inspectorate is content that risks to or from the proposed development for these matters are not likely to result in significant effects and agrees that these matters can be scoped out of further assessment.</p> |
| 3.15.9 | Table 18.4 | Technological or manmade hazards – utilities failures (water supply and sewage system) | <p>The Scoping Report explains that there will be no usage of potable water or the sewage system during construction and operation of the proposed development other than domestic use from welfare facilities, and that in the event of a loss of water supply for the combined heat and power plant, the plant will be safely shut down.</p> <p>Based on the information presented in the Scoping Report, the Inspectorate is content that these matters can be scoped out of further assessment.</p>                                                                                                    |

| ID      | Ref        | Applicant's proposed matters to scope out                                                                                                                                                                | Inspectorate's comments                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|---------|------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 3.15.10 | Table 18.4 | Technological or manmade hazards – malicious attacks (unexploded ordnance, malicious chemical/ biological/ radiological/ nuclear attacks, transport systems, crowded places, cyber and infrastructure)   | <p>The Scoping Report states that the proposed development is unlikely to be a target for major accidents and disasters associated with malicious attacks, and that risks associated with potentially encountering unexploded ordnance will be considered in the CDM Register.</p> <p>Based on the information presented in the Scoping Report, the Inspectorate is content that these matters can be scoped out of further assessment.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 3.15.11 | Table 18.4 | Technological or manmade hazards – engineering accidents and failures (bridge failure, flood defence failure, mast and tower collapse, property or bridge demolition accidents and tunnel failure/ fire) | <p>The Scoping Report explains that there are no bridges, masts and towers or tunnels in close proximity to or being constructed as part of the proposed development. The potential risk of flood defence breach events will be considered in the Flood Risk Assessment that will accompany the ES, and surveys will be undertaken prior to the demolition of buildings and structures to confirm whether any potentially harmful substances are present.</p> <p>Based on the justification and evidence presented in the Scoping Report, the Inspectorate is content that risks to or from the proposed development for these matters are not likely to result in significant effects and agrees that these matters can be scoped out of further assessment.</p> |

### 3.16 Cumulative Effects

(Scoping Report section 19)

| ID     | Ref | Applicant's proposed matters to scope out | Inspectorate's comments                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|--------|-----|-------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 3.16.1 | N/A | N/A                                       | No matters have been proposed to be scoped out of the assessment. The Cumulative Effects chapter in the Scoping Report proposes the methodology for the cumulative effects assessment in the ES. The Inspectorate is in agreement with the proposed methodology and does not have any comments to make with respect to scoping. |

## APPENDIX 1: CONSULTATION BODIES FORMALLY CONSULTED

**TABLE A1: PRESCRIBED CONSULTATION BODIES**

Bodies prescribed in schedule 1 of The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 (as amended) (the 'APFP Regulations (as amended)')

| SCHEDULE 1<br>DESCRIPTION          | ORGANISATION                                   |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| The Secretary of State for Defence | Ministry of Defence                            |
| The relevant parish council        | Ince Parish Council                            |
|                                    | Mickle Trafford and District Parish Council    |
|                                    | Neston Town Council                            |
|                                    | Puddington Parish Council                      |
|                                    | Capenhurst and Ledsham Parish Council          |
|                                    | Lea-by-Backford Parish Council                 |
|                                    | Backford Parish Council                        |
|                                    | Wervin Parish Council                          |
|                                    | Stoak Parish Council                           |
|                                    | Little Stanney and District Parish Council     |
|                                    | Thornton-le-Moors Parish Council               |
|                                    | Dunham-on-the-Hill and Hapsford Parish Council |
|                                    | Elton Parish Council                           |
|                                    | Helsby Parish Council                          |
|                                    | Hale Parish Council                            |
|                                    | Flint Town Council                             |
|                                    | Connah's Quay Town Council                     |

| <b>SCHEDULE 1<br/>DESCRIPTION</b>                                                                      | <b>ORGANISATION</b>                                          |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                        | Frodsham Town Council                                        |
| The Environment Agency                                                                                 | The Environment Agency                                       |
| Natural England                                                                                        | Natural England                                              |
| The Forestry Commission                                                                                | The Forestry Commission North West & West Midlands           |
| The Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England (known as Historic England)                | Historic England                                             |
| The Maritime and Coastguard Agency                                                                     | Maritime and Coastguard Agency                               |
| The Maritime and Coastguard Agency - Regional Office                                                   | The Maritime and Coastguard Agency - Liverpool Marine Office |
| The Canal and River Trust                                                                              | The Canal and River Trust                                    |
| The relevant Highways Authority                                                                        | Cheshire West and Chester Council Highway Department         |
|                                                                                                        | National Highways                                            |
| Integrated Transport Authorities (ITAs) and Passenger Transport Executives (PTEs)                      | Merseytravel                                                 |
| The Civil Aviation Authority                                                                           | Civil Aviation Authority                                     |
| The Health and Safety Executive                                                                        | Health and Safety Executive                                  |
| United Kingdom Health Security Agency, an executive agency of the Department of Health and Social Care | United Kingdom Health Security Agency                        |
| NHS England                                                                                            | NHS England                                                  |
| The Crown Estate Commissioners                                                                         | The Crown Estate                                             |

| <b>SCHEDULE 1<br/>DESCRIPTION</b>      | <b>ORGANISATION</b>                    |
|----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| The relevant police authority          | Cheshire Police and Crime Commissioner |
| The relevant ambulance service         | North West Ambulance Service NHS Trust |
| The relevant fire and rescue authority | Cheshire Fire and Rescue               |

**TABLE A2: RELEVANT STATUTORY UNDERTAKERS**

‘Statutory undertaker’ is defined in The APFP Regulations (as amended) as having the same meaning as in section 127 of the Planning Act 2008 (PA2008)

| <b>STATUTORY<br/>UNDERTAKER</b>                            | <b>ORGANISATION</b>                                     |
|------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| The relevant Integrated Care Board                         | NHS Cheshire and Merseyside Integrated Care Board       |
| The relevant NHS Foundation Trust                          | Ellesmere Port Hospital                                 |
| Railways                                                   | Network Rail Infrastructure Ltd                         |
|                                                            | National Highways Historical Railways Estate            |
| Road Transport                                             | Merseyside Passenger Transport Executive (Merseytravel) |
| Canal Or Inland Navigation Authorities                     | The Canal and River Trust                               |
|                                                            | Association of Inland Navigation Authorities            |
| Dock and Harbour authority                                 | Peel Ports Logistics                                    |
| Civil Aviation Authority                                   | Civil Aviation Authority                                |
| Licence Holder (Chapter 1 Of Part 1 Of Transport Act 2000) | NATS En-Route Safeguarding                              |
| Universal Service Provider                                 | Royal Mail Group                                        |
| Homes and Communities Agency                               | Homes England                                           |

| STATUTORY UNDERTAKER                               | ORGANISATION                    |
|----------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| The relevant Environment Agency                    | The Environment Agency          |
|                                                    | Natural Resources Wales         |
| The relevant water and sewage undertaker           | United Utilities                |
| The relevant public gas transporter                | Cadent Gas Limited              |
|                                                    | Northern Gas Networks Limited   |
|                                                    | Scotland Gas Networks Plc       |
|                                                    | Southern Gas Networks Plc       |
|                                                    | CNG Services Ltd                |
|                                                    | Energy Assets Pipelines Limited |
|                                                    | ES Pipelines Ltd                |
|                                                    | Fulcrum Pipelines Limited       |
|                                                    | GTC Pipelines Limited           |
|                                                    | Harlaxton Gas Networks Limited  |
|                                                    | Independent Pipelines Limited   |
|                                                    | Indigo Pipelines Limited        |
|                                                    | Inovyn Enterprises Ltd          |
|                                                    | Last Mile Gas Ltd               |
|                                                    | Leep Gas Networks Limited       |
|                                                    | Mua Gas Limited                 |
|                                                    | Quadrant Pipelines Limited      |
|                                                    | Stark Infra-Gas Limited         |
|                                                    | National Gas                    |
| The relevant electricity generator with CPO Powers | Zenobe Energy Limited           |
|                                                    | Frodsham Solar Limited          |

| STATUTORY UNDERTAKER                                 | ORGANISATION                                        |
|------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| The relevant electricity distributor with CPO Powers | SP Manweb Plc                                       |
|                                                      | Advanced Electricity Networks Ltd                   |
|                                                      | AGR Networks Ltd                                    |
|                                                      | Aidien Ltd                                          |
|                                                      | Aurora Utilities Ltd                                |
|                                                      | Edge Utility Networks Ltd                           |
|                                                      | Eclipse Power Distribution Limited                  |
|                                                      | Eclipse Power Network Limited                       |
|                                                      | Energy Assets Networks Limited                      |
|                                                      | ESP Electricity Limited                             |
|                                                      | Fulcrum Electricity Assets Limited                  |
|                                                      | Green Generation Energy Networks Cymru Ltd          |
|                                                      | Grid Line Power Networks                            |
|                                                      | Harlaxton Energy Networks Limited                   |
|                                                      | Independent Distribution Connection Specialists Ltd |
|                                                      | Independent Power Networks Limited                  |
|                                                      | Indigo Power Limited                                |
|                                                      | Last Mile Electricity Ltd                           |
|                                                      | Leap Electricity Networks Limited                   |
|                                                      | Mua Electricity Limited                             |
|                                                      | Optimal Power Networks Limited                      |
|                                                      | Sphere Energy Connect Ltd                           |
|                                                      | Stark Infra-Electricity Ltd                         |
|                                                      | The Electricity Network Company Limited             |

| STATUTORY UNDERTAKER                                 | ORGANISATION                               |
|------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
|                                                      | UK Power Distribution Limited              |
|                                                      | Utility Assets Limited                     |
| The relevant electricity transmitter with CPO Powers | National Grid Electricity Transmission Plc |
|                                                      | National Energy System Operator (NESO)     |

**TABLE A3: LOCAL AUTHORITIES AS DEFINED IN SECTION 56A OF THE PA2008**

| LOCAL AUTHORITY                     |
|-------------------------------------|
| Liverpool City Council              |
| Cheshire East Council               |
| Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council |
| Cheshire West and Chester Council   |
| Halton Borough Council              |
| Shropshire Council                  |
| Flintshire County Council           |
| Warrington Borough Council          |
| Wrexham County Borough Council      |

**TABLE A4: THE MARINE MANAGEMENT ORGANISATION**

Section 46(1)(b) of the PA2008 requires consultation with the Marine Management Organisation in any case where the proposed development would affect, or would be likely to affect, any of the areas specified in subsection 46(5).

| ORGANISATION                       |
|------------------------------------|
| The Marine Management Organisation |

## APPENDIX 2:      RESPONDENTS TO CONSULTATION AND COPIES OF REPLIES

| CONSULTATION BODIES WHO REPLIED BY THE STATUTORY DEADLINE: |
|------------------------------------------------------------|
| Canal and River Trust                                      |
| Cheshire East Council                                      |
| Cheshire West and Chester Council                          |
| Elton Parish Council                                       |
| Environment Agency                                         |
| Flint Town Council                                         |
| Forestry Commission                                        |
| Health and Safety Executive                                |
| Helsby Parish Council                                      |
| Marine Management Organisation                             |
| Maritime and Coastguard Agency                             |
| Ministry of Defence                                        |
| National Grid Electricity Transmission                     |
| National Highways                                          |
| NATS Safeguarding                                          |
| Natural England                                            |
| Network Rail                                               |
| Sphere Energy Connect Ltd                                  |
| The Manchester Ship Canal Company Ltd                      |
| UK Health Security Agency                                  |
| United Utilities Water Ltd                                 |



**Canal &  
River Trust**

Making life better by water

Your Ref EN0110007

Our Ref CRTR-IPP-01034-01

Thursday 1 October 2026

Dear Case Officer,

**Proposal: Stanlow Hydrogen Ready Combined Heat and Power Project Development Consent Order - Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report**

**Project Name: Stanlow Hydrogen Ready Combined Heat and Power Project Development Consent Order**

**Waterway:**

Thank you for your consultation in respect of the above.

The Trust is the charity who look after and bring to life 2000 miles of canals & rivers. Our waterways contribute to the health and wellbeing of local communities and economies, creating attractive and connected places to live, work, volunteer and spend leisure time. These historic, natural and cultural assets form part of the strategic and local green-blue infrastructure network, linking urban and rural communities as well as habitats. By caring for our waterways and promoting their use we believe we can improve the wellbeing of our nation. The Trust is a prescribed consultee in the Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIP) process.

The Trust own and manage the Shropshire Union Canal which runs to the west of the application site.

As land owner and operator of the Canal, the Trust would wish to see any potential impacts on; our waterway users (boaters, towpath users and wildlife); infrastructure (the canal, culverts, towpaths,); or the habitats that our waterway support; fully identified and addressed within the Environmental Statement (ES) and supporting documents.

The Scoping Report provides information on the likely nature and form of the proposed development and identifies areas of potential impacts.

**Following consideration of the scoping consultation we have the following comments to make:**

#### **Chapter 5: Air Quality**

The Trust agrees that air quality should be scoped into the Environmental Statement. The Scoping Report does not identify the Shropshire Union Canal as a specific air quality receptor. However, it is noted that a number of sensitive ecological and residential receptors are located between the Site and the canal corridor and are substantially closer to the proposed development. The assessment methodology and proposed mitigation measures appear appropriate and would be expected to minimise any risk of adverse effects on the canal corridor. On this basis, the Trust has no comment on the scope of Chapter 5 assessment.

**Canal & River Trust Spatial Planning Team**

E: [planning@canalrivertrust.org.uk](mailto:planning@canalrivertrust.org.uk) W: [canalrivertrust.org.uk](http://canalrivertrust.org.uk) T: 0303 040 4040

## Chapter 6: Noise and Vibration

The Trust agree that noise and vibration should be scoped into the Environmental Statement. The methodology has identified intervening sensitive receptors and the outlined methodology and mitigation would minimise risk to the canal.

Notwithstanding this, and the distance to the canal, waterway corridors contribute to the health and wellbeing of its users (boaters, anglers, commuters, leisure and recreational users on the towpath). These spaces should be protected from intrusive forms of development and any potential impacts such as noise should be kept to a minimum.

The Trust therefore recommends that the Shropshire Union Canal and its users are recognised within the assessment as noise-sensitive receptors and that the Environmental Statement demonstrates that construction and operational noise would not materially affect the amenity and enjoyment of the canal corridor.

## Chapter 7: Biodiversity

The Shropshire Union Canal forms part of the wider ecological network within the area and provides important habitat and ecological connectivity. Biodiversity value, ecological function and water quality should therefore be protected throughout both construction and operation.

The Trust notes that the canal is not identified as an ecological receptor within the Scoping Report, despite lying within the wider study area used for habitats and species assessments. Whilst the canal falls outside the proposed hydrological connectivity study area, it remains an important ecological corridor that should be acknowledged within the Environmental Statement baseline.

The Trust recommends that the Environmental Statement explicitly recognises the Shropshire Union Canal as components of the ecological connectivity framework. The assessment should demonstrate that there would be no significant adverse effects on habitat connectivity, protected species movement, and water quality pathways.

## Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage

The Trust welcomes the inclusion of cultural heritage within the scope of the Environmental Impact Assessment.

The Scoping Report adopts a 1 km study area and therefore does not appear to consider the canal corridor. Whilst it is acknowledged that the design is evolving, the proposed development includes substantial additional industrial structures which have the potential to influence the wider landscape setting.

The Environmental Statement should therefore include a robust assessment of effects on heritage significance and setting, including consideration of views from and towards local character and sense of place.

## Chapter 9: Landscape and Visual Impact

The Trust agrees that landscape and visual effects should be scoped into the Environmental Statement.

The Shropshire Union Canal and its towpath are recognised corridors for recreational outdoor provision and sustainable active travel for local communities, well frequented for their amenity value. The report identifies the Canal Towpath Trail associated with the Shropshire Union Canal as a recreational route.

The canal and its users should be recognised as potential receptors within any visual assessment, and should be acknowledged in the list of representative viewpoints, based on the value of the landscape character and amenity of the canal.

It is welcomed that the **Shropshire Union Canal** is identified as a recreational receptor approximately **1.8km southwest of the Site**. Recreational users of the canal and towpath are included as visual receptors in Chapter 9 and are referenced as part of the active travel network. It is welcomed that Viewpoint 5 is located on a footpath crossing the Shropshire Union Canal and identifies "recreational users of the Shropshire Union Canal" as receptors.

However there are potentially significant temporary effects during the construction and permanent visual effects to the area following completion which would affect the current character and experience of the waterways. which should be fully considered in any submitted Environmental Statement.

## **Chapter 10: Water Environment and Flood Risk**

The Trust notes that the assessment identifies Gale Brook, Thornton Brook, the River Gowy, the Mersey Estuary and underlying groundwater resources as key receptors. Based on the information presented, no direct hydraulic connection between the proposed development and the Shropshire Union Canal has been identified. The principal drainage pathways appear to discharge towards Gale Brook and subsequently the River Gowy and Mersey Estuary rather than towards the canal network.

The Trust therefore broadly agrees with the proposed scope of assessment. However, the Environmental Statement should confirm that there are no pathways through which drainage, pollution incidents, contaminated groundwater mobilisation, dewatering activities or flood risk changes could adversely affect the canal network. The Trust seeks assurance that no significant effects would arise to canal water quality, water quantity or hydrological function.

## **Chapter 16: Ground Conditions**

The Trust notes that the Study Area comprises the areas within the Red Line Boundary together with a 250-metre buffer. The chapter identifies controlled waters, including the Principal Aquifer, Gale Brook and the River Gowy, as sensitive receptors that may be affected by contamination and pollution pathways arising during construction and operation.

Whilst the Shropshire Union Canal is not identified as a receptor within the Scoping Report, the Trust considers that the canal should also be recognised as a sensitive receptor within any contaminated land and ground conditions assessment. The canal forms part of the wider water environment and contamination or pollutant mobilisation associated with construction activities has the potential to adversely affect waterway corridors and associated ecological, recreational and navigation interests.

The Trust notes that the assessment identifies potential pathways relating to the disturbance and mobilisation of existing contamination and proposes mitigation measures designed to protect underlying groundwater resources and nearby watercourses. Given the separation distance between the Site and the canal, and the focus on protecting the Principal Aquifer and nearby main river systems, these measures would be expected to significantly reduce the likelihood of impacts affecting the canal network. Nevertheless, the Environmental Statement should demonstrate that the canal has been appropriately considered within the conceptual site model and risk assessment process.

## **Chapter 17: Traffic and Transport**

The Trust agrees that Traffic and Transport should be scoped into the Environmental Statement. The Scoping Report identifies local roads and transport receptors that may be affected by construction and operational traffic movements including users of the surrounding highway network, PRoW and non-designated public routes.

Whilst the Shropshire Union Canal is located approximately 2 km west of the Site and unlikely to experience direct impacts from road traffic associated with the development, the canal corridor forms an important active travel and recreational route. The Environmental Statement should therefore consider whether construction traffic, or other transport-related activities could indirectly affect or use of the canal corridor and towpath network.

The Trust recognises that the Shropshire Union Canal is located approximately 2 km west of the proposed development and that significant direct effects may not arise for a number of environmental topics. Nevertheless, the canal is a strategically important and multifunctional blue-green infrastructure asset that supports navigation, recreation, biodiversity, active travel and health and wellbeing functions. The Trust therefore requests that the Environmental Statement appropriately recognises the canal and its users as receptors where relevant and demonstrates that the proposed development would not result in significant adverse effects on the canal network during either construction or operation,

## **Canal & River Trust Spatial Planning Team**

E: [planning@canalrivertrust.org.uk](mailto:planning@canalrivertrust.org.uk) W: [canalrivertrust.org.uk](http://canalrivertrust.org.uk) T: 0303 040 4040

### The Trust as landowner

The Trust has a duty under the Trusts Agreement with the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (28 June 2012) to operate and manage the waterways and towpaths for public use and enjoyment.

The Trust owns the canal, water and the towpath network for a number of the waterways which may be directly impacted by the works, forming Infrastructure Trust Property.

The Trust is a statutory undertaker which has specific duties to protect the waterways. Accordingly, we have a duty to resist the use of compulsory purchase powers which may negatively affect our land or undertakings. Alternatively, should any compulsory acquisition powers over the Trust's land be sought, such acquisition should only be with the consent of the Trust.

Finally, the Trust will require any works to comply with the Canal & River Trust "Code of Practice for Works affecting the Canal & River Trust" and the applicant is advised to contact the Works Engineering Team by emailing [Enquiries.TPWNorth@canalrivertrust.org.uk](mailto:Enquiries.TPWNorth@canalrivertrust.org.uk) in order to ensure that any necessary consents are obtained.

The above comments are given as advice based on the consultation material. We would wish to provide more detailed comments as the scheme progresses and the potential impact on our waterways determined. The above comments do not prejudice any further comments or matters that may be raised by the Trust at a later stage.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any queries you may have.

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]  
Area Planner

[REDACTED]@canalrivertrust.org.uk

### Planning at the Trust

#### **Canal & River Trust Spatial Planning Team**

E: [planning@canalrivertrust.org.uk](mailto:planning@canalrivertrust.org.uk) W: [canalrivertrust.org.uk](http://canalrivertrust.org.uk) T: 0303 040 4040

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Stanlow Hydrogen and CHP](#)  
**Subject:** EN0110007 - Stanlow Hydrogen Ready Modular Combined Heat and Power Project  
**Date:** 30 September 2026 15:59:51  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[image004.png](#)  
[image005.png](#)  
[image006.png](#)  
[image007.png](#)

You don't often get email from [REDACTED]@cheshireeast.gov.uk. [Learn why this is important](#)

Good Afternoon

I write regarding the above application and your letter dated 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2026 seeking the views of the authority on the ES Scoping Report.

We have reviewed the proposal and the accompanying Scoping Report and we have no comments to make at this time.

Regards

[REDACTED]

**Principal Planning Officer**

Development Management Service | Cheshire East Council

[REDACTED]@cheshireeast.gov.uk | [REDACTED]



**View the Cheshire East Plan 2025-29**

**Enabling prosperity  
and wellbeing for all**



\*\*\*\*\*

Confidentiality: This email and its contents and any attachments are intended only for the above named. As the email may contain confidential or legally privileged information, if you are not the above named person or responsible for delivery to the above named, or suspect that you are not an intended recipient please delete or destroy the email and any attachments immediately.

Security and Viruses: This note confirms that this email message has been swept for the presence of computer viruses. We cannot accept any responsibility for any damage or loss caused by software viruses.

Monitoring: The Council undertakes monitoring of both incoming and outgoing emails. You should therefore be aware that if you send an email to a person within the Council it may be subject to any monitoring deemed necessary by the organisation from time to time. The views of the author may not necessarily reflect those of the Council.

Access as a public body: The Council may be required to disclose this email (or any response to it) under the Freedom of Information Act, 2000, unless the information in it is covered by one of the exemptions in the Act.

Legal documents: The Council does not accept service of legal documents by email.

\*\*\*\*\*

To find out how we use your information see our privacy notice.

[https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/council\\_and\\_democracy/council\\_information/website\\_information/privacy-notices/privacy-notice.aspx](https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/council_and_democracy/council_information/website_information/privacy-notices/privacy-notice.aspx)

\*\*\*\*\*

OFFICIAL

# Cheshire West & Chester Council

**Address**

The Portal, Wellington Road, Ellesmere Port  
CH65 0BA

**Tel:**

**Your ref:** EN0110007

Environmental Services and Infrastructure  
Decisions and Applications Service  
Planning Inspectorate  
69 Buckingham Avenue  
Slough  
SL1 4PN

**Please ask for:** [REDACTED]

**Email:**

[REDACTED]@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

**Web:** [www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk](http://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk)

**Date:** 1 October 2026

Dear Sir/Madam

**Planning Act 2008 (as amended) and The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (The EIA Regulations) – Regulations 10 and 11**

**Proposed application by Essar Energy Transition Fuels (EET Fuels) (the applicant) for an Order granting Development Consent for the Stanlow Hydrogen Ready Modular Combined Heat and Power Project (the proposed development)**

**Scoping consultation and notification of the applicant's contact details and duty to make available information to the applicant if requested**

I write in response to your correspondence in respect of the above.

The Council has reviewed the submitted Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report (ref 2026UK550445-ENV-001) dated 2 September 2026.

The Council has the following comments in respect of the chapters of the document. Where a chapter is not referenced, the Council has no comments to make at present.

**Chapter 5 – Air Quality**

The Council agrees with the findings of Chapter 5 except in relation to the below matters.

In Table 5.5, as part of the rationale for scoping out construction phase impacts arising from Non-Road Mobile Machinery (NRMM), there is a reference to the proposal being the same scale of the proposed development. This is taken to be a reference to Table 5.1 which notes that these impacts were scoped out in relation to Phase 1. It is not clear, however, whether the usage of NRMM is comparable to that predicted for Phase 1, particularly given that Table 5.1 confirms that the specific details regarding the number and type of machinery are not currently available. Unless it can be confirmed that the scale of usage would be materially similar to that at Phase 1, it is not considered that this approach is sufficiently robust.

The rationale for scoping out odour impacts is based on the position that there would be no sources of odour from the proposed development. It is not clear how this conclusion (at Table 5.5) is reached, and it



Cheshire West  
and Chester

is noted that at 5.6.9 it is stated that odour sources are not expected which falls short of this being ruled out. In the absence of a clear rationale for this conclusion, the Council cannot agree that the operational impact of odour emissions during operation on human receptors can be robustly scoped out.

## **Chapter 7 – Biodiversity**

It should be noted that the baselines in chapters relating to noise and air quality consider human receptors only and should not be used to inform baselines of ecological impacts.

Table 7.9 does not consider all potential impacts on national, European and international sites, such as presence of functionally linked-land, visual and hydrological impacts. Paragraph 3.3.45 refers to water and visual impacts to being scoped into the assessment. However, only noise and pollution emissions are considered in table 7.5 in terms of impacts scoped in on statutory sites. More detail in terms of which elements of impacts on statutory sites are scoped in or out, should be added, including all impacts. This should also be the case for non-statutory sites.

It should be noted that the Council would expect that any other elements that have been scoped out in terms of air quality as per Table 5.1, will need to be considered in the light of any position Natural England adopt on this matter.

Indirect impacts from localised generation of dust impacting HPI is scoped out on the basis that no HPI are stated to be present in the site. This is incorrect as Priority Habitat Open Mosaic on Previously Developed Land is present on the site (as identified as part of the Environmental Statement carried out in connection with planning application 21/04091/FUL for the erection of a hydrogen production plant (HPP)). Other Priority habitats, such as Coastal Floodplain Grazing Marsh are located approximately 50m from site and could be affected by hydrological impacts. These should be scoped into the assessment.

Non-roosting bats are scoped out of the assessment, however, further detail on this is required, in terms of new lighting on any adjacent woodland or tree line habitats, such as those in the north-west of the proposed order limit.

Impacts on Great-crested newts are scoped out of the assessment but given that there are extensive areas of terrestrial habitat on the site peripheries, particularly on the northern and western boundaries of the site, and suitability of man-made waterbodies within 250m of the site, the Council cannot agree at this stage that it has been adequately demonstrated that there would be no likely significant effects in this regard.

Impacts on reptiles are scoped out of the assessment but given the presence of open mosaic habitat on the site, and the presence of connectivity by way of pipe-track routes, further justification would be required for the Council to accept this position.

Impacts on otter have been scoped out with Table 7.9 only referring to Gale Brook as a possible receptor. This overlooks the River Gowy, which is located approximately 60m to the west of the site and the fact that the intervening land contains woodland habitat. Further consideration of this matter would need to be given before the Council could accept this position.

Table 7.9 does not refer to potential significant impacts on invertebrate species. This should be given further consideration.

## **Chapter 9 – Landscape and Visual**

The Council agrees with the assessment in respect of the likely extent of visual impacts associated with the proposal. Most of the conclusions of Table 9.5 are agreed.

The scoping report has provided very little information regarding the extent, location and intensity of lighting associated with both phases of the development. It is acknowledged that there is existing lighting present

at the site but there has been no information provided which would indicate that the existing lighting baseline would not be significantly exceeded. Given the scale and extent of the proposal and given the lack of information in relation to the foregoing, the Council does consider that there is insufficient rationale at this stage to scope out impacts associated with night-time effects of lighting during the construction or operation phase of the proposal.

## **Chapter 12 – Greenhouse Gases (GHG)**

The Council endorses the approach assessing likely significant impacts in respect of GHG with regard to the adoption of a worst-case scenario with regards the use of carbon-based fuels.

## **Chapter 17 – Highways and Movement**

With reference to Table 17.6, it is agreed that impacts arising from construction traffic should be scoped into the assessment. Consideration should also be given to the impact of significant numbers of HGV and the occasional movement of AIL on road surface condition within the public highway. It is not clear if this matter is included within the elements set out in Table 17.6.

## **Chapter 19 – Cumulative Effects**

The long-list of other developments to be considered omits the following which the Council believe should be included.

- The Mersey Tidal Power Project – This is registered with The Planning Inspectorate and is within close proximity of the site. This project would potentially result in a significant overlapping impact with the proposal.
- Planning application 26/00470/S73. This is a planning application pending consideration to vary planning application reference 21/04091/FUL for the erection of a hydrogen production plant (HPP) which is included on the long list. The application site overlaps the proposed order limits. The proposal seeks to remove existing habitat on the site which was to be retained as part of the conditions of the planning permission. The granting of planning permission would have a potential cumulative impact on HPI on the site.

It should be noted that the status of many of the listed applications appear to be out of date.

The Council considers it to be of vital importance that there is engagement relating to the short listing of projects and would welcome further discussion on this as preparation of the ES progresses.

I trust this response is of use.

Yours faithfully

  
(Principal Planning Officer)

**From:** parishclerk@eltonparishcouncil.co.uk  
**Sent:** 14 September 2026 08:48  
**To:** Stanlow Hydrogen and CHP  
**Subject:** EN0110007- Stanlow Hydrogen Ready Modular Combined Heat and Power Project

You don't often get email from parishclerk@eltonparishcouncil.co.uk. [Learn why this is important](#)

Elton Parish Council wish to provide the following comment on this application:

The Parish Council would like reassurance that this development does not impact negatively in terms of noise and odour on the residents of Elton.

Best wishes, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED], Clerk to Elton Parish Council

Postal address - Elton Community Centre, School Lane, Elton CH2 4PU

Web: <https://www.eltonparishcouncil.co.uk/>

Telephone - [REDACTED]

Please note the clerk works 8 hours per week and will reply as soon as possible.

Planning Inspectorate

Sent via Email:

[stanlowhydrogenandchp@planninginspectorate.gov.uk](mailto:stanlowhydrogenandchp@planninginspectorate.gov.uk)

Reference: OR-0011540/01

Customer reference: EN0110007

01 October 2026

## ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT SCOPING REPORT

### STANLOW HYDROGEN READY MODULAR COMBINED HEAT AND POWER PROJECT

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for consulting the Environment Agency (EA), on the 03 September 2026, to review the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Scoping Report for Stanlow Hydrogen Ready Modular Combined Heat and Power Project. This is our response to your consultation under reference: **OR-0011540/01**.

We have listed our headline comments below in **Table 1.1**, with detailed **EIA Scoping Comments** in [Appendix A](#), **Advice to the Applicant** in [Appendix B](#) and **Informatives for the Applicant** in [Appendix C](#). We recommend the use of a commitments register to aid further scoping out of topics.

Based on the information submitted, there is a significant risk the development will impact on the aspects and issues below. We therefore request they be scoped in for assessment to ensure they are adequately assessed and mitigated.

**Table 1.1 Headline Comments**

| Aspect                   | Issue                             | Developer position   | EA position               |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|
| Decommissioning          | Decommissioning excluded.         | Scoped out.          | Scope in decommissioning. |
| River Gowy WFD Waterbody | Downstream WFD receptor excluded. | Scoped out.          | Scope in River Gowy WFD.  |
| Gale Brook Culvert       | Culvert retention assumed.        | No changes proposed. | Assess de-culverting.     |

|                                 |                                      |                                |                                                |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| WFD Assessment                  | No WFD assessment proposed.          | WFD screening not required.    | Undertake a proportionate WFD assessment.      |
| Flood Risk                      | Third-party flood risk omitted.      | Not assessed.                  | Assess off-site flood risk.                    |
|                                 | Flood defence impacts omitted.       | Not assessed.                  | Assess impacts to flood defences.              |
| Groundwater & Contaminated Land | Operational pollution risks omitted. | Scoped out.                    | Assess operational risks to controlled waters. |
|                                 | Baseline evidence inadequate.        | Existing baseline relied upon. | Revise baseline and PRA.                       |
| Water Quality                   | Thermal impacts omitted.             | Not assessed.                  | Assess thermal impacts.                        |
|                                 | Foul water impacts omitted.          | Not assessed.                  | Assess foul water impacts.                     |
|                                 | BESS Firewater risks unclear.        | Not explicitly assessed.       | Assess BESS firewater risks.                   |
| Water Resources                 | Water demand not assessed.           | Water supply not defined.      | Assess water demand and supply.                |
| Climate Resilience              | Climate resilience excluded.         | Scoped out.                    | Scope in climate resilience.                   |

Our advice has been provided under our chargeable service agreement with the Applicant: **ENVPAC/1/NIT/00093**.

Any requests to disapply any permits or consents should be sent to us in writing as soon as possible, to allow us sufficient time for their consideration (minimum 6 months). Sufficient time is required to ensure we can appropriately respond to discharge of requirements and protective provision consultations. Please ensure in your Development Consent Order (DCO) a minimum of 21 days is stipulated as a response time for the discharge of requirements, and a minimum of 61 days for protective provisions.

Please note, this response does not represent our final view in relation to any environmental permit applications made to us. Our final views will be based on all relevant information, including applications and guidance available at the time of submission.

We look forward to continuing to work with you as the detailed proposals continue to develop, and to review and provide advice on relevant supporting documents as these are generated.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

**Planning Specialist**

Direct e-mail: [Nlteam@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:Nlteam@environment-agency.gov.uk)

## **APPENDIX A - EIA SCOPING COMMENTS**

Our comments in the below appendix outlines issues we would like to be scoped in for further assessment for the Stanlow Hydrogen Ready Modular Combined Heat and Power Project Environmental Impact Assessment.

### ***Decommissioning***

| <b>Scoping Request</b>                                                                     | <b>Scope In: Decommissioning Phase</b> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Chapters:</b><br>Volume 1<br>Chapters 2,10 and 16                                       | <b>Issue</b>                           | We disagree with the Applicants approach that “The impacts associated with decommissioning cannot be robustly assessed”, this is not in line with other NSIPs.                                                    |
| <b>Section/ pages/ table reference:</b><br>Section 2.7<br>Section 10.1.1<br>Section 16.1.1 | <b>Impact</b>                          | Excluding decommissioning from the assessment would prevent a full understanding of the development's potential environmental effects.                                                                            |
|                                                                                            | <b>Solution</b>                        | We request the Applicant Scope In the decommissioning phase into the EIA and assess reasonable worst-case scenarios. This will ensure the likely significant effects are appropriately identified and considered. |

#### **Additional Comments:**

Chapter 2, Section 2.7.1 states that the Proposed Development is anticipated to operate for a minimum of 25 years, with a decision regarding the extension of operational life at the end of this period. The report states *‘the impacts associated with decommissioning cannot be robustly assessed at this time and therefore these have not been considered’*. As the Proposed Development is not anticipated to operate in perpetuity and decommissioning activities could result in potentially significant impacts, we request these be assessed as part of the ES.

Chapter 10, Section 10.1.1 and Chapter 16, Section 16.1.1 considers the potential impacts of the Proposed Development on ground conditions and soils during the construction, operational and decommissioning phases, however no consideration of decommissioning effect is provided within the chapter.

If the decommissioning phase is excluded from the EIA, the likely significant environmental effects arising at the end of the development's operational life cannot be fully understood. This creates uncertainty regarding the potential impacts on water environment and ecological receptors, at the end of the development's operational life. This may result in necessary mitigation measures not being identified.

Decommissioning phase details has been excluded from the following chapters:

- Biodiversity (Chapter 7)
- Water Environment (Chapter 10)
- Ground Conditions (Chapter 16)

Given the Proposed Developments historical land uses, the decommissioning effects may be significant to controlled waters, ground conditions, biodiversity. Not considering the decommissioning, phase suitable mitigations may not be identified.

The Applicant should clearly define the securing mechanism for embedded mitigation during the decommissioning phase. Such as an outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (DEMP) followed by detailed DEMP at detailed design stage.

### **Gowy (Milton Brook to Mersey) Waterbody**

| <b>Scoping Request</b>                                           | <b>Scope In: Gowy (Milton Brook to Mersey) Waterbody</b> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Chapters:</b><br>Volume 1<br>Chapter 7<br>Chapter 10          | <b>Issue</b>                                             | We disagree with the Applicants decision to scope out the Gowy (Milton Brook to Mersey) Water Framework Directive (WFD) waterbody of the EIA. In addition, the Applicant has stated the Proposed Development assumes no changes will be made to the existing culverted section of the Gale Brook within the red line boundary.                                                                                                            |
|                                                                  | <b>Impact</b>                                            | Excluding the River Gowy WFD waterbody from the EIA risks impacts to the water environment not being fully identified and assessed.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Section/ pages/ table reference:</b><br>7.6.15,<br>Table 10.7 | <b>Solution</b>                                          | We request the Applicant: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scope In the Gowy (Milton Brook to Mersey) WFD waterbody into the EIA.</li> <li>• Remove the Gale Brook culvert and re-naturalise the river.</li> <li>• Complete a proportionate WFDa.</li> </ul> These measures are necessary to adequately assess potential impacts arising from the Proposed Development via Gale Brook and downstream water environment receptors. |

### **Additional Comments:**

#### **Hydraulic Links to the River Gowy WFD Waterbody**

The Gale Brook is a designated Main River that is culverted through the proposed development site and flows directly into the River Gowy WFD waterbody, which subsequently discharges into the Mersey transitional waterbody. Consequently, impacts to Gale Brook have the potential to affect downstream WFD receptors and their ability to achieve or maintain WFD objectives.

The retention of the existing culvert may continue to adversely affect hydromorphological and ecological processes, including river continuity, habitat connectivity, sediment transport, flow processes and fish passage. These factors are relevant to the elements assessed under the WFD and may constrain opportunities to improve the status of the River Gowy waterbody.

### **National Planning Policy Framework - Culverts**

The Applicant has outlined in Table 10.7 they do not intend to change or alter Gale Brook Culvert within red line boundary.

This is against National Planning Policy which states: *'as development proposals should where possible remove existing culverts and renaturalise existing river channels, unless to do so would increase flood risk, result in other environmental harm or cause harm to heritage assets.'*

### **EA Position**

In accordance with national planning policy, the Applicant should prioritise the removal of the existing Gale Brook culvert and restoration of a naturalised watercourse as part of the Proposed Development. As the culvert lies within the red line boundary, the scheme presents a clear opportunity to enhance the water environment and contribute towards the achievement of WFD objectives.

Where feasible, the culvert should be removed and replaced with a natural channel, with any necessary crossings provided by appropriately designed open-span structures. Retention of the culvert would represent a missed opportunity to improve river continuity, habitat connectivity, sediment transport and fish passage.

If the Applicant considers de-culverting to be unfeasible, a robust evidence-based justification must be provided demonstrating why culvert removal would result in unacceptable flood risk, environmental harm or impacts to heritage assets. Without such justification, retention of the existing culvert should not be assumed to be an acceptable outcome. The Applicant must also demonstrate that the Proposed Development will not compromise the achievement of WFD objectives or future opportunities for river restoration.

### **Water Framework Directive Assessment**

The Applicant has stated in Table 10.7 that a WFD screening assessment is not required. However, EIA scoping and WFD assessment are separate, albeit complementary, processes. Scoping a receptor out of the EIA does not remove the requirement to assess compliance with WFD objectives where there is potential for effects on the water environment.

Given the direct hydraulic connection between Gale Brook, the River Gowy WFD waterbody and the Mersey transitional waterbody, the Applicant should undertake a proportionate WFD Assessment to demonstrate that the Proposed Development will not cause deterioration in waterbody status or prevent the achievement of WFD objectives. Failure to do so risks overlooking downstream impacts, necessary mitigation measures and opportunities for environmental enhancement.

### ***Flood and Coastal Risk Management***

| <b>Scoping Request</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                 | <b>Scope In: Flood Risk to Third Parties and Offsite</b>                                                                                                                                         |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Chapters:</b><br>Volume 1<br>Chapters 10<br><br><b>Section/ pages/ table reference:</b><br>Table 10.7                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | <b>Issue</b>    | The Applicant has not Scoped In flood risk to third parties.                                                                                                                                     |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <b>Impact</b>   | The EIA may not fully identify risks to people, property and infrastructure. This may lead to increases in off-site and downstream flood risk, as they are not assessed or compensated for.      |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <b>Solution</b> | We request the Flood Risk scope explicitly include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Risks to third parties arising from construction works and operation of the development.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Additional Comments:</b><br>The Applicant has not outlined in the EIA Scoping Report that they will assess flood risk to third parties. Whilst they have Scoped In the flood risk to the development and surrounding users, it has not outlined that it will assess the risk to third parties (people, property and infrastructure offsite). This could result in inadequate mitigation measures and an incomplete understanding of potential consequences of flooding during both construction and operation. |                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                  |

| <b>Scoping Request</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                 | <b>Scope In: Impacts to Flood Defences and Infrastructure</b>                                                                                                                                                                    |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Chapters:</b><br>Volume 1<br>Chapters 10<br><br><b>Section/ pages/ table reference:</b><br>Table 10.7                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | <b>Issue</b>    | The EIA Scoping report has not considered the proposals risks/impacts to flood defence assets and structures, including any culverted main rivers, for all development phases.                                                   |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | <b>Impact</b>   | Flood defence infrastructure as a result of construction activities and the proposed scheme, may adversely affect the performance, integrity or maintenance of existing flood risk management assets in the area.                |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | <b>Solution</b> | We request the Applicant Scope In the impacts to flood defence assets and structures into the EIA. This will ensure the development appropriately considers the impacts to flood defences and provide the necessary mitigations. |
| <b>Additional Comments:</b><br>The assessment of flood risk should cover any impacts to existing flood defence assets, flood defence structures and culverted main rivers. This should also include assessment of any impacts to the operation and maintenance of these assets. The assessment should identify any necessary mitigation measures to ensure existing flood defence assets/structures continue to function effectively. |                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |

There should be a comprehensive assessment of flood defence assets, the risks associated with potential failure, and how any risks will be mitigated. The assessment should cover:

- Defence type
- Current condition
- Construction details
- Potential impacts of construction vibrations
- Monitoring requirements

### ***Groundwater and Contaminated Land***

|                                                                     |                                                                 |                                                                                                                                        |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Scoping Request</b>                                              | <b>Scope In:</b> Operational Impacts to Controlled Waterbodies. |                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>Chapters:</b><br>Volume 1<br>Chapter 10 and 16                   | <b>Issue</b>                                                    | The Scoping Report identifies operational aspects of the proposed development that could pose a significant risk to controlled waters. |
| <b>Section/ pages/ table reference:</b><br>Table 10.7<br>Table 16.2 | <b>Impact</b>                                                   | Inadequate management of the proposed aspects could lead to significant pollution incidents to controlled waters.                      |
|                                                                     | <b>Solution</b>                                                 | We request the Applicant Scope In Operational Impacts to Controlled Waterbodies.                                                       |

Section 2.4.2 to 2.4.6 of the Scoping Report identifies aspects associated with the construction and operation of the Proposed Development, inclusive of equipment, facilities and infrastructure which could pose a significant risk to controlled waters if surface water drainage and spill/leak containment is inadequately managed such as:

- 2 No. Ammonia tanks (95 tonne capacity)
- Modularised E-House (Substations)
- Temporary construction laydown area
- Chemical Injection Packages
- Temporary contractors' welfare cabins and parking

Chapter 10 Section 10.7.4 As part of embedded measures within the construction phase, secured via the CoCP, the Applicant states that dewatering effluent will be inspected and where required, monitored, treated and/or removed off-site to prevent contaminant mobilisation.

There is minimal detail provided at this stage on the proposed monitoring and analytical procedures to manage potentially contaminated water produced during dewatering activities. Further detail should be provided at DCO stage and secured. It should be noted that the PRA (Volume 3 Appendix 16.1) reports the potential presence of contamination from within the Phase 2 Site Boundary and from across the wider Stanlow Manufacturing Complex.

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Scoping Request</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | <b>Revise the:</b> Preliminary Risk Assessment (PRA), Water Environment (Chapter 10), Ground Conditions (Chapter 16) baseline data. |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Chapters:</b><br>Volume 1,<br>Chapters 10 and 16                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | <b>Issue</b>                                                                                                                        | We are not satisfied that the current Water Environment (Chapter 10), Ground Conditions (Chapter 16) baseline and Preliminary Risk Assessment (PRA) provide a sufficiently robust basis for the assessment of potential effects on controlled waters.                              |
| <b>Section/ pages/ table reference:</b><br>Volume 3,<br>Appendix 16.1                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | <b>Impact</b>                                                                                                                       | Potentially significant contaminant sources, historical land uses and evidence of existing contamination may not have been fully considered.                                                                                                                                       |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | <b>Solution</b>                                                                                                                     | We request the Applicant revisit and refine the baselined and PRA using all available site-specific information. This will ensure that potential contaminant linkages and risks to controlled waters are appropriately identified and assessed within the Environmental Statement. |
| <p><b>Additional Comments:</b><br/>We disagree with the overall, preliminary-conceptual site assessment for land quality and protection of controlled waters is low to moderate. In our opinion this should be moderate to high given the extended history of the site as a refinery complex.</p> <p><b><u>Historical Mapping</u></b><br/>Not all information sources relating to the potential for historic contamination appear to have been considered to inform the baseline conditions in either the water environment or ground conditions chapters. No detailed discussion of the current historic use of the site, including the development and use of the SMC, is presented in the Scoping Report.</p> <p>We note that Ordnance Survey mapping and some site-specific layout plans have been assessed as part of Volume 1 Chapter 8 Cultural Heritage. It should be noted there may be gaps in coverage provided by historic mapping, and that some potentially contaminative features may not be represented.</p> <p>Volume 3 Appendix 8.1 Heritage Statement includes a review of historic maps and site plans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Figure 2: Thornton-le-Moors tithe map 1838</li> <li>• Figure 3: 1<sup>st</sup> Edition OS map 25" 1873-4</li> <li>• Figure 4: OS 1:10,000 map 1938</li> <li>• Figure 5: OS provisional 1:10,000 map 1967-8</li> <li>• Figure 6: Stanlow Manufacturing Complex Site Plan 1970</li> </ul> |                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |

Sections 3.1.6 and 3.1.7 confirm that available intrusive data show the thickness and composition of Made Ground is variable across the SMC, and that superficial deposits do not form a consistent layer across the SMC site, with conditions variably showing superficial deposits to comprise Glacial Till, Tidal Flat Deposits, or else be entirely absent. Volume 1 Chapter 10 Section 10.5.33 describes tidal flat deposits as comprising sediments including 'mud'. This is not an accepted technical descriptive term, unlike silt or clay, and should be corrected. We recognise that this does not materially affect the conclusions of the Chapter.

### **Preliminary Risk Assessment (PRA)**

Volume 3 Appendix 16.1 Preliminary Risk Assessment Table 2 lists identified hazardous substances identified within the wider SMC, and Volume 3 Appendix 16.1 Preliminary Risk Assessment Appendix G presents a figure and list of potential sources of contamination across the Proposed Development.

Volume 3 Appendix 8.1 Table 3.1 provides a list of consulted data sources, which includes historic Ordnance Survey maps dating from the 1860-70s to the present day derived from a Groundsure report, presumably the same source of information used for the production of the PRA.

Although Section 2.3 of the PRA states that a copy of historic mapping provided as part of the Groundsure report for the Site is presented in Appendix C: Groundsure Report, the appended document comprises only the Groundsure datasheet, with all historic Ordnance Survey maps absent. Therefore, it has not been possible to cross check the conclusions provided within the PRA as a result.

We advise the Applicant to include a review of historic mapping within any future Preliminary Risk Assessment or desk study to ensure the assessment meets the minimum requirements set out in the current Land Contamination Risk Management guidance (Defra, 2025).

The suite of contaminants of concern may be extensive and reflect the range of historic and ongoing operational activities within the project red line boundary. Where possible, this phase of work should draw upon the current site pollution inventory, records of operational materials, and the contaminants identified within the Site Protection and Monitoring Plan (SPMP), which is currently being progressed under permit improvement conditions IC35 and IC36, to ensure that all likely contaminants of concern are appropriately considered.

### **Sampling Regime**

We recognise that further site investigation, assessment and, where necessary, remediation will likely be required to demonstrate that the proposed development will not contribute to environmental deterioration or adversely affect controlled waters, including groundwater and surface water receptors.

Any future ground investigation should include multiple rounds of groundwater and surface water monitoring to establish a robust understanding of baseline conditions and contaminant variability.

This information will also be important in supporting any future strategy for the reuse of site-won materials and the importation of materials required to create a suitable development platform.

### **Outline Code of Construction Practice (OCOCP)**

The outline COCP, Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan or equivalent should include supporting plans, which should be secured under the DCO. These should include the following (note this list is not intended to be exhaustive):

- Discovery Strategy, to be supported by a contamination watching brief;
- Pollution Prevention Plan;
- Construction Surface Water Drainage Plan;
- Drilling fluid breakout plan for any required trenchless crossings;
- Soil Management Plan / Materials Management Plan, prepared in accordance with CL:AIRE Code of Practice (2011);
- Site Waste Management Plan / Site Resources and Waste Management Plan;
- Foundation Works Risk Assessment(s);
- Hydrogeological Risk Assessment(s);
- Dewatering Management Plan;
- Methods for safe storage and use of fuels, oils and chemicals.

### **Water Quality**

| <b>Scoping Request</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                 | <b>Scope In: Heat</b>                                                                                                                                  |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Chapters:</b><br>Volume 1<br>Chapter 4<br><br><b>Section/ pages/ table reference:</b><br>4.2.11                                                                                                                                                                                       | <b>Issue</b>    | We request the Applicant Scope In Heat, as there is a risk that discharges from the Combined Heat and Power Plant can impact water quality.            |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | <b>Impact</b>   | If heat is not scoped in, we cannot adequately assess the impact of the development to water receptors.                                                |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | <b>Solution</b> | We request that Heat be Scoped In for further assessment in the EIA, to demonstrate that Heat will not impact water quality and groundwater receptors. |
| <b>Additional Comments:</b><br>We recognise that section 2.4.6 says it is a “closed circuit water cooler” but we do not have enough understanding about the design of the Combined Heat and Power plant to be confident there are no heat related risks and seek further explanations or |                 |                                                                                                                                                        |

diagrams from the Applicant. Whilst some details won't be known until post-consent, it should be scoped in until risks are known.

Heat as a groundwater pollutant was introduced in 2023 via the [Environmental Permitting \(England and Wales\) \(Amendment\) \(England\) Regulations 2023 SI No.2023/651](#):

*““pollutant”, in relation to England, means any—  
d. substance,  
e. heat, or  
f. biological entity or micro-organism,  
which is liable to cause pollution;”*

We are mindful that work is being carried out in this area in relation to heating of groundwater from ground source heating and cooling systems but there is currently no guidance relating to the potential thermal implications of subsurface infrastructure.

At this stage we require the potential thermal implications of subsurface infrastructure, in relation to risks to groundwater, to be considered further via desk-based assessment. If we are concerned that there are risks which require ongoing control or management, we may opt to regulate it as a groundwater activity under schedule 22 of the Environmental Permitting Regulations (EPR) 2016.

We have no specific guidance relating to the potential thermal implications of subsurface infrastructure. We suggest that our guidance for ground source heating and cooling systems should be used as a guide. The following link contains relevant information, including thermal plume modelling and an interactive system map and spreadsheet: [Environmental impacts of temperature changes from ground source heating and cooling systems - GOV.UK](#)

| Scoping Request                                                                                                                                                                                    | Scope In: Foul water |                                                                                                                                                                |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Chapters:</b><br>Volume 1<br>Chapter 10<br><br><b>Section/ pages/ table reference:</b><br>10.6.1,<br>10.6.4,<br>Table 10.7                                                                      | <b>Issue</b>         | Foul water impacts is not recognised as a risk to water quality in sections 10.6.1 or 10.6.4.                                                                  |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                    | <b>Impact</b>        | If not managed correctly foul water can greatly increase the amount of nutrients, and other contamination, in receiving water courses and water bodies.        |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                    | <b>Solution</b>      | We request the Applicant expand the Scope of potential significant impacts under section 10.6.1 or 10.6.4 to include impacts from foul water and its disposal. |
| <b>Additional Comments:</b><br>Any foul waste generated will need to be contained, and then either connected to a sewer, tankered away, or treated and discharged under permit. It is unclear from |                      |                                                                                                                                                                |

10.7.2 or 10.7.3 how welfare sewage will be managed, and if the Applicant is intending for it to connect to sewer as per 10.5.30.

| Scoping Request                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Scope In: Fire risk from BESS                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |  |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| Chapters:<br>Volume 1<br>Chapter 10                                  | Issue                                                                                                                                                                                           | Surface water features are only scoped in for the quality impacted from increased sedimentation and pollution risks. It is unclear if this includes firewater, despite Section 1.1.8 saying there will be a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS). |  |
|                                                                      | Impact                                                                                                                                                                                          | In the event of a fire at the BESS, firewater and other chemicals from BESS pose an unacceptable risk to the water environment receptors and will deteriorate water quality.                                                                      |  |
| Section/ pages/ table reference:<br>10.6.1,<br>10.6.4,<br>Table 10.7 | Solution                                                                                                                                                                                        | We request that the risk from firewater be explicitly Scoped In for further assessment into a Water Environment assessment.                                                                                                                       |  |
|                                                                      | Additional Comments:<br>We understand that Table 10.7 scopes in Quality of surface water features, however 10.6.1 and 10.6.4 does not mention any risk from firewater associated with the BESS. |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |  |

### **Water Resources**

| Scoping Request                            |          | Scope In: Water Demand                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |  |
|--------------------------------------------|----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| Chapters:<br>Volume 1,<br>Chapter 2 and 10 | Issue    | The Environment Agency seeks confidence that a practical and sustainable source of water supply can be established, meeting the consumptive demands for the full life of the project, and not compromise the viability of the scheme.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |  |
|                                            | Impact   | Water supply may not be available from different sources of supply; sources may be restricted or limited as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Water company supply needs to be confirmed by the Water undertaker.</li><li>• Tankering should be reflected in traffic and transport estimates.</li><li>• Groundwater may be closed to new abstractions, as per the abstraction licensing strategy.</li><li>• Surface water abstraction will be restricted to periods outside of low flows only, as per the abstraction licensing strategy.</li></ul> |  |
| Section/ pages/ table reference:           | Solution | All water demands of the project should be assessed in the Environmental statement, with all                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |  |

|  |  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|--|--|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  |  | <p>intended options considered for supply water, appraised and water supply issues identified, that detailed design will need to overcome before any permits are applied for.</p> <p>This can be incorporated into a Water Resources, Flood Risk Chapter or, it can be in the form of a separate Water Supply Strategy.</p> |
|--|--|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

**Additional Comments:**

Consumptive water demands during the construction and operation of the project have not been included in the scope of assessment or in the project description.

**Construction Phase**

The project proposes several operational activities that may require a water supply including:

- Demineralised process water for steam generation
- Closed Circuit Water Cooler
- Hybrid cooling tower

Closed loop cooling systems are in principle very water efficient and the use of air cooling proposed is also encouraging as regards water use. Volumes required for supply and top up are still unspecified however along with efficiency measures such as condensate reuse.

In addition, consumptive uses of water during construction often include (but are not limited to):

- Dust suppression
- Wheel/plant machinery wash
- Welfare station (potable/domestic) supply
- Concrete batching
- Drilling fluids (bentonite mixing)

The EIA should include estimate volumes of water required and provide a basic appraisal of supply options available to the project which includes an appraisal of the [abstraction licensing strategy](#) for the catchment. For example (in no order):

- Water company supply (engagement with water company should be as early as possible)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> party tankered water (should also be reflected in traffic assessments)
- Surface water abstraction
- Groundwater abstraction
- Existing licences/trades
- Rainwater harvesting

It is understood that exact volumes and extent of activities are not determined until detailed design and contractor onboarding however, this is not required to establish a basic level of confidence that a practical and sustainable source of supply is available to meet demands of the proposal.

### **Operation Phase**

The operation of the project describes the following aspects which may require a water supply:

- Demineralised process water for steam generation
- Closed Circuit Water Cooler
- Hybrid cooling tower

Closed loop cooling systems are in principle very water efficient and the use of air cooling proposed is also encouraging as regards water use. Volumes required for supply and top up are still unspecified however along with efficiency measures such as condensate reuse.

| <b>Scoping Request</b>                            |                 | <b>Scope In: Climate Resilience</b>                                                                                                                                                     |
|---------------------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Chapters:</b><br>Volume 1,<br>Chapter 4 and 11 | <b>Issue</b>    | Climate resilience has been Scoped Out of the EIA despite identifying reduced rainfall, increased temperature, water shortages and droughts impacting key infrastructure.               |
|                                                   | <b>Impact</b>   | Water scarcity may affect the viability and reliability of the development, particularly where operations rely on secure water supplies.                                                |
|                                                   | <b>Solution</b> | We request the Applicant Scope In climate resilience for further assessment. This is to ensure the Proposed Development is resilient to the impacts of climate change for its lifetime. |

### **Additional Comments:**

Insufficient information has been provided on future water demand, supply sources, and the implications of reduced water availability for scheme operation. Any abstraction from the Gowry catchment may be constrained by hands-off flow conditions, which could become more restrictive under future climate scenarios, reducing water availability and operational resilience.

The Applicant should assess the effects of climate change on water availability and demonstrate that sufficient water resources will remain available throughout the lifetime of the development. A water supply strategy should identify abstraction requirements, sources of supply, and consider future climate scenarios, including the implications of drought and abstraction restrictions on scheme operation. The Applicant should also justify the decision to scope climate resilience out of the assessment or include an appropriate assessment of these effects.

## **APPENDIX B - ADVICE TO APPLICANT**

Below we provide the Applicant with the following advice that should be considered as the projects proposals develop further. The advice given identifies the current proposals risks to the environment, our concerns and our appropriate guidance to de-risk the project.

### **Chapter 2 The Proposed Development**

#### ***Water Resources***

| <b>Advice to Applicant</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Chapter ref:</b><br>Volume 1,<br>Chapter 2                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | <b>Issue</b>    | Best available techniques for cooling technologies may not have been considered by the project.                                                                                                  |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | <b>Impact</b>   | Water supply for cooling techniques may not be sustainably considered.                                                                                                                           |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | <b>Solution</b> | The Proposed Development would benefit from completing an options appraisal for cooling technologies. The options appraisal should be complemented by the findings of the water supply strategy. |
| <b>Additional Comments:</b><br>Best available techniques are referred to (e.g. 2.4.2) for the Gas Turbine modules with regards to NOx emissions and for reciprocating engines (2.4.5) and air quality (5.7.4). The use of water efficient cooling techniques are encouraged. However, a full picture of the NET benefits of technological choices considered is desirable. A water supply strategy should complement this by identifying both opportunities and limitations of sources of supply available to the project. Operating energy efficiency and carbon cost may be reduced by the use of other techniques than those identified. |                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                  |

## Chapter 7 Biodiversity

### ***Biodiversity***

| <b>Advice to Applicant</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                 |                                                                                             |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Chapter ref:</b><br>Volume 1,<br>Chapter 2,<br>Section 2.4.1                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | <b>Issue</b>    | Installation of main scheme components and underground utilities such as pipes and cabling. |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | <b>Impact</b>   | Entrapment risk of mammals.                                                                 |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | <b>Solution</b> | Provide appropriate mitigation measures to prevent mammal entrapment during construction.   |
| <b>Additional Comments:</b><br>We acknowledge the embedded mitigations made in section 7.7.6. to excavate and close trenches in the same day. However, we suggest the additional mitigations should also be embedded to ensure the risk of entrapment is reduced further: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cover-over open trenches to prevent wildlife from falling in and place a ramp to enable wildlife to escape.</li><li>• Securely fence compounds and trenches during construction.</li><li>• Any open pipework should be capped overnight.</li><li>• All open trenches and pipework should be inspected at the start of each working day to ensure no animal is trapped.</li></ul> |                 |                                                                                             |

| <b>Advice to Applicant</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                 |                                                                                                                                                       |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Chapter ref:</b><br>Volume 1,<br>Chapter 7,<br>Section 7.7                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | <b>Issue</b>    | Biosecurity measures are not specified in the 'Mitigation Measures' Section.                                                                          |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | <b>Impact</b>   | It is an offence under Section 14(2) of the WCA to plant or otherwise cause to grow in the wild any plant listed in Part II of Schedule 9 to the Act. |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | <b>Solution</b> | Include biosecurity measures as part of construction mitigation.                                                                                      |
| <b>Additional Comments:</b><br>Biosecurity measures should be embedded within the scheme to prevent the spread of species on and off-site during construction. While the successful control of Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) during the construction phase will reduce immediate risks, there remains a significant potential for re-invasion through accidental reintroduction by site operatives, vehicles, equipment, animals, or other vectors. Accordingly, land managers should implement ongoing monitoring for INNS and, where any occurrences are identified, undertake appropriate control and management measures to prevent their establishment and further spread. |                 |                                                                                                                                                       |

| <b>Advice to Applicant</b>                      |               |                                                                                                          |
|-------------------------------------------------|---------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Chapter ref:</b><br>Volume 3,<br>Appendix B, | <b>Issue</b>  | Legislation, Policy and Guidance does not include legislation pertaining to Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG). |
|                                                 | <b>Impact</b> | Risk of not considering environmental definitions in legislation in respect of BNG, such as              |

|                                         |                 |                                                                                                                                                                 |
|-----------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Legislation and National Policy Context |                 | 'irreplaceable habitat', along with related offences to said habitats.                                                                                          |
|                                         | <b>Solution</b> | Please include the following legislation, policy and guidance for completeness:<br><br>Biodiversity Gain Requirements (Irreplaceable Habitat) Regulations 2024. |
| <b>Additional Comments:</b>             |                 |                                                                                                                                                                 |

### ***Fisheries***

| <b>Advice to Applicant</b>                              |                 |                                                                                                                                                 |
|---------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Chapter ref:</b><br>Volume 1,<br>Chapter 7,<br>7.6.2 | <b>Issue</b>    | The desk study to inform the baseline for the EIA does not include freely available Environment Agency fish survey data.                        |
|                                                         | <b>Impact</b>   | Without a thorough understanding of the baseline there could be impact-pathways to receptors that are not identified and sufficiently assessed. |
|                                                         | <b>Solution</b> | The desk study must include EA fish survey data which can be found here - <a href="#">EA Ecology &amp; Fish Data Explorer</a>                   |
| <b>Additional Comments:</b>                             |                 |                                                                                                                                                 |

| <b>Advice to Applicant</b>                                  |                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Chapter ref:</b><br>Volume 1,<br>Chapter 7,<br>Table 7.3 | <b>Issue</b>    | The methodology for the aquatic walkover surveys has not been provided.                                                                                                                                        |
|                                                             | <b>Impact</b>   | This creates uncertainty regarding the identification and characterisation of aquatic ecological receptors, which may lead to impacts on fish and other aquatic habitats and species not being fully assessed. |
|                                                             | <b>Solution</b> | The EIA must include the methodology of any ecological surveys undertaken including the aquatic walkover survey.                                                                                               |
| <b>Additional Comments:</b>                                 |                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                |

Without a clear understanding of how habitats and aquatic ecological receptors were identified and/or appraised, there is insufficient evidence to support the survey conclusions and results.

The UK Habitat Classification survey outlined in Appendix 7.1 only identifies aquatic features such as watercourse or pond. It does not specify a more detailed assessment of the aquatic ecological features within that waterbody or watercourse type.

#### **Advice to Applicant**

|                                                             |                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Chapter ref:</b><br>Volume 1,<br>Chapter 7,<br>Table 7.7 | <b>Issue</b>    | We do not agree with the conclusions that the Gale Brook and aquatic habitats onsite are not sufficient to support fish.                                                                                    |
|                                                             | <b>Impact</b>   | As a result, potential impact pathways to fish and other aquatic ecological receptors may not be adequately identified or assessed, which could lead to an underestimation of likely environmental effects. |
|                                                             | <b>Solution</b> | We require the Applicant to provide evidence on how the habitat was assessed on the initial site visit that supports the conclusions made regarding the Gale Brook and its habitats.                        |

#### **Additional Comments:**

Furthermore, where any in-channel works take place or any impact-pathways to aquatic environment are identified which could impact fish, fish surveys need to be completed.

Mitigation for fish may be required and should be considered. Such mitigation may include, avoiding works during sensitive fish migration and spawning periods, fish rescues, fine sediment control measures and pumps installed with 2mm screens to avoid entrainment.

#### **Advice to Applicant**

|                                                             |                 |                                                                                          |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Chapter ref:</b><br>Volume 1,<br>Chapter 7,<br>Table 7.9 | <b>Issue</b>    | Impacts to Eels from water abstractions and discharges.                                  |
|                                                             | <b>Impact</b>   | Impacts from thermal change and dissolved oxygen could impact on fish.                   |
|                                                             | <b>Solution</b> | The Applicant should ensure the Proposed development and its activities will be designed |

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |  |                                                          |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|----------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |  | to comply with Eel (England and Wales) Regulations 2009. |
| <p>It is unclear whether water will be abstracted for cooling purposes and discharged to main river. Where any abstraction from main river takes place then the point of intake must be compliant with the Eels (England and Wales) Regulations 2009. Where any coolant water is discharged into main river, then the EIA must assess the impact to fish because of this discharge. Impacts from thermal change and dissolved oxygen could impact on fish.</p> <p>We note that in 2.4.6 of chapter 2 it states that the proposal will use a hybrid cooling tower as an option and closed-circuit water cooler. Further detail is required as to what the source of coolant water will be.</p> |  |                                                          |

## Chapter 10 Water Environment and Flood Risk

### Water Quality

| Advice to Applicant                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Chapter ref:<br>Volume 1,<br>Chapter 10,<br>10.8.5                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Issue    | We disagree with Section 10.8.5 that outlines <i>"No water quality sampling or qualitative analysis is proposed"</i> .                                                                                         |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Impact   | Without appropriate water quality monitoring, project-related changes in water quality may not be reliably identified or assessed.                                                                             |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Solution | A water quality monitoring plan should be committed to and specify: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• locations,</li><li>• frequency,</li><li>• quantity,</li><li>• methodology of monitoring.</li></ul> |
| <b>Additional Comments:</b> <p>Water quality monitoring should be conducted by the Applicant pre-construction, during construction and for the first few months of operation. The frequency should occur at least monthly and the locations should be upstream and downstream of any water crossings or discharges.</p> <p>Monitoring methodology should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• site walkovers for visual assessment,</li><li>• use of hand-held devices in-situ</li><li>• samples regime sent to a laboratory should be confirmed.</li></ul> <p>The water quality monitoring plan could be secured via the CoCP.</p> |          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                |

| Advice to Applicant                                |          |                                                                                                                                                     |
|----------------------------------------------------|----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Chapter ref:<br>Volume 1,<br>Chapter 10,<br>10.5.1 | Issue    | Missing water quality data source is not included Section 10.5.1 list for the Water Environment.                                                    |
|                                                    | Impact   | If all relevant data is not used, conclusions about the water quality baseline may not be based on complete information.                            |
|                                                    | Solution | The Applicant should use <a href="#">Map Explorer   Water Quality Explorer</a> to provide further expand the baseline data regarding water quality. |
| <b>Additional Comments:</b>                        |          |                                                                                                                                                     |

| <b>Advice to Applicant</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Chapter ref:</b><br>Volume 1,<br>Chapter 10,<br>10.7.2 and 10.7.3                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | <b>Issue</b>    | The proposed temporary and permanent drainage systems are not described in sufficient detail.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | <b>Impact</b>   | Without sufficient information, it is not possible to determine whether surface water runoff will be adequately managed or whether pollutants such as sediment, hydrocarbons, heavy metals and other contaminants could adversely affect receiving watercourses.                                                                                                                                                                        |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | <b>Solution</b> | <p>The Applicant should provide a Surface Water Management Plan and Drainage Strategy describing how surface water will be managed during each phase of development.</p> <p>The Environmental Statement should identify the location and function of proposed SuDS, explain how they will improve water quality, and include maintenance commitments informed by the CIRIA SuDS Manual (C753F) to ensure their ongoing performance.</p> |
| <b>Additional Comments:</b><br><p>Section 10.7.2 and 10.7.3 states there will be temporary and new drainage systems but the types, levels of treatment and if they include Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) is unclear. In addition, there does not appear to be a proposed Surface Water Management Plan or a Drainage Strategy.</p> <p>Surface water management strategy must be suitably designed to manage the risks from sediment, hydrocarbons, heavy metals and other hazardous substances which could get into surface water runoff and decrease water quality if these contaminants reach receiving surface watercourses. If SuDS are unmaintained debris and/or sediment could accumulate and prevent them from effectively managing drainage.</p> <p>We also note section 10.6.1 and 10.6.4 does not include any scope to assess changes to drainage at the site as the result of the development.</p> |                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |

|                            |
|----------------------------|
| <b>Advice to Applicant</b> |
|----------------------------|

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Chapter ref:</b><br>Volume 1,<br>Chapter 10,<br>10.7.2 and 10.7.3                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | <b>Issue</b>    | The proposed mitigation measures in sections 10.7.2 and 10.7.3 are limited at this stage. It is unclear how mitigations will be secured for the operational and decommissioning phases.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | <b>Impact</b>   | <p>Insufficient mitigation may increase the risk of deterioration in surface water quality through the release of sediment, concrete washout, hydrocarbons, and other hazardous substances into surface water runoff and receiving watercourses.</p> <p>Without clear commitments, it is not possible to determine how water quality impacts will be prevented, managed, or mitigated throughout the project lifecycle.</p>                                                                                                                                            |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | <b>Solution</b> | <p>The Applicant should provide detailed mitigation measures within the CoCP and Environmental Statement for all phases. This should include measures to manage risks associated with earthworks, concrete use and curing, spillages, and the storage and handling of hazardous substances.</p> <p>The Applicant should also include the following guidance: <a href="#">Pollution prevention for businesses - GOV.UK</a> and <a href="#">Oil storage regulations for businesses - GOV.UK</a> and CIRIA Containment systems for the prevention of pollution (C736)</p> |
| <b>Additional Comments:</b><br>An outline CoCP should include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Buffer distances of at least 10m from watercourses from top of bank.</li> <li>• Refuelling to only take place on impermeable surfaces, and in bunded areas.</li> <li>• Chemical, oil and fuel storage to be bunded, with impermeable base, volume sized for 110% and covered to protect from accumulation of rainwater.</li> <li>• Parking areas and temporary construction compounds should use drip trays and oil interceptors.</li> <li>• Concrete/cement works should be minimised during heavy precipitation events and carried out during dry months. Pre-cast units could be used where possible.</li> </ul> |                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |

- Collecting and removing any contaminated water from site (i.e. from wheel wash and concrete washout facilities) and not allowing this to be discharged to surface waters.

| Advice to Applicant                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Chapter ref:</b><br>Volume 1,<br>Chapter 10,<br>10.5.26,<br>10.5.30                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | <b>Issue</b>    | It is unclear how discharges to Manchester Ship Canal and Gale Brook will be managed.                                                                                                                                                 |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | <b>Impact</b>   | Without a robust assessment and management of construction drainage, silty or contaminated surface water runoff may be discharged to the receiving watercourses, resulting in pollution incidents and deterioration of water quality. |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | <b>Solution</b> | We strongly recommend the Applicant contacts our National Permitting Service promptly to determine the need for an environmental permit is required for any proposed discharges from the site.                                        |
| <b>Additional Comments:</b><br>Whilst section 10.5.29 acknowledges discharge is subject to permit; it doesn't clearly address that permits may need to be applied for regarding discharges of surface runoff or dewatering.<br><br>Not engaging early with our National Permitting Service may cause a delay to the project. It should be made clear in future documents that a discharge to a watercourse whether it is a main river, ordinary watercourse or canal can require a permit for a discharge and all three fall within our remit.<br><br>Guidance is available here: <a href="#">Discharges to surface water and groundwater: environmental permits - GOV.UK</a> |                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |

| Advice to Applicant                                           |               |                                                                                                                                                                               |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Chapter ref:</b><br>Volume 1,<br>Chapter 10,<br>Table 10.8 | <b>Issue</b>  | We disagree with the Applicants assumptions made in Table 10.8 regarding the receptors importance based on WFD classification alone.                                          |
|                                                               | <b>Impact</b> | Underestimating receptor importance could lead to significant effects and mitigation measures being insufficient. Impacts on smaller watercourses and drains can still affect |

|                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                 | downstream WFD waterbodies and their objectives.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <b>Solution</b> | The Applicant should assess if watercourses and drains, which may not have a WFD classification are hydraulically linked to WFD waterbodies and consider their downstream impacts. Where waterbodies are hydraulically linked, receptor importance should be increased from Low/Medium to High. |
| <b>Additional Comments:</b><br>Main rivers without WFD status should also have a 'High' classification. It is also unclear how downstream effects have been considered in assessment methodology. |                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |

### ***Groundwater and Contaminated Land***

| <b>Advice to Applicant</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                 |                                                                                                                                            |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Chapter ref:</b><br>Volume 1,<br>Chapter 10,<br>Figure 10.2                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | <b>Issue</b>    | The underlying aquifers are not included as a water environment receptor in Figure 10.2, although groundwater abstractions are identified. |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | <b>Impact</b>   | Readers may assume that the underlying aquifers are not considered to be a sensitive water environment receptor.                           |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | <b>Solution</b> | The figure should be amended to clearly identify groundwater as a sensitive receptor.                                                      |
| <b>Additional Comments:</b><br>The Applicant should be aware of the UKGeos site at Thornton Science Park ( <a href="#">Cheshire observatory overview   UK Geoenergy Observatories</a> ), which is a credible receptor for groundwater effects. Whilst this site does not currently have a current abstraction licence they are investigating water trading with the extant Thornton Science Park licence. |                 |                                                                                                                                            |

| <b>Advice to Applicant</b>                                         |                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Chapter ref:</b><br>Volume 1,<br>Chapter 10,<br>Section 10.5.49 | <b>Issue</b>    | Groundwater Dependent Terrestrial Ecosystems (GWDTE) are discounted, as no GWDTEs are recorded within the Study Area.                                                                             |
|                                                                    | <b>Impact</b>   | Sensitive ecological sites not currently designated as GWDTE could be present within the Study Area, which could be adversely impacted by the Proposed Development.                               |
|                                                                    | <b>Solution</b> | The Applicant should identify and review all ecologically sensitive features with the potential to be groundwater-dependent and undertake an assessment of any likely significant effects arising |

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |  |                                                   |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |  | from the Proposed Development on those receptors. |
| <b>Additional Comments:</b><br>GWDTE are also not discussed within Chapter 7 Biodiversity. Although not currently designated as a GWDTE, Gowy Meadows and Ditches Local Wildlife Site (LWS) 40m south of the Red Line Boundary, could be in hydraulic continuity with perched groundwater (Secondary aquifer). |  |                                                   |

| Advice to Applicant                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                 |                                                                                |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Chapter ref:</b><br>Volume 1,<br>Chapter 10,<br>Section 10.5.36<br>And<br>Chapter 16,<br>Section 16.5.4                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | <b>Issue</b>    | No groundwater vulnerability status is provided for Alluvium.                  |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | <b>Impact</b>   | Effects on perched groundwater within Alluvium may not be adequately assessed. |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | <b>Solution</b> | The Applicant should consider Alluvium as a groundwater receptor.              |
| <b>Additional Comments:</b><br>British Geological Survey 1:50,000 scale mapping shows the presence of localised Alluvium within the southern part of the Red Line Boundary associated with Gale Brook.<br><br>Groundwater vulnerability mapping does not differentiate the vulnerability of these deposits from the surrounding superficial deposits, and indicates these to have Medium and Low combined groundwater vulnerability. As a conservative approach, these should be considered of medium groundwater vulnerability. |                 |                                                                                |

| Advice to Applicant                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                 |                                                                                                                                                                    |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Chapter ref:</b><br>Volume 1,<br>Chapter 10,<br>Section 10.5.74                                                                                                                                                                                                                | <b>Issue</b>    | The Applicant has classified the superficial Secondary A aquifers present within the site as Low sensitivity.                                                      |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <b>Impact</b>   | Sensitivity of Secondary A aquifers has been underestimated, which could result in inadequate mitigation of significant effects on groundwater resources.          |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <b>Solution</b> | We request the Applicant update the Secondary A aquifers to be at least of Medium sensitivity and revise their assessment of effects to this receptor accordingly. |
| <b>Additional Comments:</b><br>Aquifers are considered to have inherent value independent of whether they are currently being abstracted for potable or other uses. Although, Secondary aquifers are not explicitly included in Table 3.70 of DMRB LA 113, these represent a more |                 |                                                                                                                                                                    |

sensitive receptor than unproductive strata, which are assigned 'Low' importance in Table 3.70.

In addition, although we recognise that Gale Brook is culverted through the Red Line Boundary area, there may be hydraulic connectivity between perched groundwater in superficial deposits on-site and the watercourse.

| <b>Advice to Applicant</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Chapter ref:</b><br>Volume 1,<br>Chapter 10,<br>Section 10.7.2                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <b>Issue</b>    | The Applicant states that a Piling Works Risk Assessment would be carried out where required, including assessment of risks to controlled waters.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <b>Impact</b>   | Foundation works, including piling and deep ground improvement, may interact with groundwater receptors.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <b>Solution</b> | <p>The Applicant should assess the potential effects of foundation works on groundwater and, where interactions are identified, consider the need for a Foundation Works Risk Assessment (FWRA) informed by appropriate ground investigation and groundwater monitoring data.</p> <p>The assessment should be undertaken in accordance with Position Statement N7 of <a href="#">The Environment Agency's approach to groundwater protection</a>.</p> |
| <b>Additional Comments:</b><br>Groundwater level monitoring should be conducted over a sufficient period to represent reasonable worst-case groundwater conditions, i.e. should cover winter months, which typically are associated with periods of relatively high rainfall.                                                                                                                                                       |                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Piling and Penetrative ground improvement methods:</b><br>Piling or any other foundation designs using penetrative methods can result in risks to potable supplies from. For example; pollution / turbidity, risk of mobilising contamination, drilling through different aquifers and creating preferential pathways. Thus, it should be demonstrated that any proposed piling will not result in contamination of groundwater. |                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |

## Chapter 16 Ground Conditions and Soils

### *Groundwater and Contaminated Land*

| Advice to Applicant                                                                                                                                                       |          |                                                                                                                        |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Chapter ref:<br>Volume 1,<br>Chapter 16                                                                                                                                   | Issue    | No figures have been provided showing potential sources of contamination.                                              |
|                                                                                                                                                                           | Impact   | It is unclear to the reader what potential sources of contamination are present on and in close proximity to the site. |
|                                                                                                                                                                           | Solution | The Applicant should produce a figure showing potential sources of contamination.                                      |
| <b>Additional Comments:</b><br>Potential sources of contamination should be identified based on the findings of the Preliminary Risk Assessment (Volume 3 Appendix 16.1). |          |                                                                                                                        |

| Advice to Applicant                                        |          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|------------------------------------------------------------|----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Chapter ref:<br>Volume 1,<br>Chapter 16,<br>Section 16.4.3 | Issue    | The Applicant has applied a 250m Study Area for ground conditions and soils.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|                                                            | Impact   | Significant effects on groundwater may extend beyond 250m.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|                                                            | Solution | The Applicant must review the extent of the groundwater study area and the identification of sensitive groundwater receptors to ensure all potentially affected receptors are captured. Robust justification should be provided for the proposed study area extent, including evidence that the selected buffer is sufficient to identify and assess all likely significant effects. |
| <b>Additional Comments:</b>                                |          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |

| Advice to Applicant                                                |          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Chapter ref:<br>Volume 3,<br>Appendix 16.1,<br>Table 4 and Table 5 | Issue    | Groundwater within superficial deposits and bedrock has been screened out as a receptor for above-ground cables and access roads, including potential contaminant migration pathways.                                                             |
|                                                                    | Impact   | Potential contamination risks from foundations and road construction activities may not be identified or adequately mitigated.                                                                                                                    |
|                                                                    | Solution | The Preliminary Risk Assessment (PRA) should be revised to assess groundwater effects from foundation and road construction activities, including the potential for vertical mobilisation of contamination into superficial and bedrock aquifers. |

**Additional Comments:**

Volume 1 Chapter 3 Section 3.3.34 does not mention the Preliminary Risk Assessment, which is of relevance to both the Water Environment and Ground Conditions disciplines with respect to the potential for soil and/or groundwater contamination to be encountered and the anticipated groundwater conceptual model. This is later referenced in Chapter 16.

The construction of foundations for above ground structures including cabling and ducting, and construction of new roads and trackways, including any associated utility and drainage infrastructure, could result in the mobilisation of existing soil and/or groundwater contamination, and/or the creation of new flow pathways enabling groundwater mixing.

Section 10.7.4 states that '*piling and other below-ground construction activities will be designed and implemented to avoid the creation of preferential pathways for contaminant migration between superficial deposits and underlying bedrock aquifers.*' This should also refer to avoidance of causing mixing of separate groundwater bodies.

Volume 3 Appendix 16.1 Table 6 states '*the below ground cable trenches could act as a pathway if shallow perched water is present and they intersect any residual contamination*'. Any ground investigation should assess the potential for contamination along the cable routes and a robust CoCP should be in place for any contamination encountered during the construction works.

Any below ground utilities could similarly act as a pathway in the event shallow perched water is encountered, and similar mitigation should therefore be employed. We note that in Section 10.7.5 of Volume 1 Chapter 10 the Applicant commits to ensure that the integrity of the surface water drainage network is routinely assessed to avoid pollutants entering the groundwater environment from the site drainage system (and prevent contaminated groundwater entering the system).

**Advice to Applicant**

|                                                               |                 |                                                                                                                       |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Chapter ref:</b><br>Volume 3,<br>Appendix 16.1,<br>Plate 3 | <b>Issue</b>    | Plate 3 of the Preliminary Risk Assessment (Superficial Geology) is misleading and lacks clarity.                     |
|                                                               | <b>Impact</b>   | The plate does not accurately present mapped superficial geology within the Proposed Development and Study Area.      |
|                                                               | <b>Solution</b> | The Preliminary Risk Assessment should be updated to correct Plate 3. The clarity of Plate 3 should also be improved. |

**Additional Comments:**

Plate 3 and the accompanying PRA text appears to show that the Proposed Development draft Order Limits are entirely underlain by superficial deposits, chiefly comprising Tidal Flat Deposits, Devensian Till and Alluvial Fan Deposits and with a localised deposit of Alluvium associated with Gale Brook. Our review of 1:50,000 scale British Geological Survey mapping of the same area indicates that superficial deposits are locally absent in the areas labelled in Plate 3 as Alluvial Fan Deposits.

#### Advice to Applicant

|                                                                   |                 |                                                                                                                                     |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Chapter ref:</b><br>Volume 3<br>Appendix 16.1<br>Section 4.3.3 | <b>Issue</b>    | The PRA determines the hydrogeological risk setting as Moderate, based on the site being underlain directly by a Principal aquifer. |
|                                                                   | <b>Impact</b>   | The value and sensitivity of hydrogeological receptors may be underestimated.                                                       |
|                                                                   | <b>Solution</b> | The Applicant should provide justification for the selection of a Moderate hydrogeological risk value.                              |

#### Additional Comments:

Although the adopted risk assessment process (NHBC (R&D Publication 66: 2008, Vol 2) is included as Appendix F of the PRA, the use of this process to derive a risk setting value has not been documented.

Although not locally in use for potable water abstraction, the underlying Principal aquifer represents a sensitive receptor in its own right. As stated in [Protect groundwater and prevent groundwater pollution - GOV.UK](#), Principal aquifers provide significant quantities of drinking water, and water for business needs. They may also support rivers, lakes and wetlands.

We note the Applicant's commitment to undertake intrusive ground investigations across the Proposed Development. The Conceptual Site Model should be updated to reflect the findings of these investigations, which should be undertaken in accordance with the Environment Agency's Land Contamination Risk Management (LCRM) guidance.

#### Advice to Applicant

|                                                            |                 |                                                                                   |
|------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Chapter ref:</b><br>Appendix 16.1,<br>Tables 6, 7 and 8 | <b>Issue</b>    | Groundwater within superficial aquifers is not listed as a sensitive receptor.    |
|                                                            | <b>Impact</b>   | Risks to superficial aquifers have not been assessed.                             |
|                                                            | <b>Solution</b> | The Applicant should consider superficial aquifers as controlled water receptors. |

#### Additional Comments:

We acknowledge the PRA assesses risks posed to groundwater within bedrock and adjacent surface waters. Both of which are of higher value and sensitivity than the

superficial Secondary A and Secondary (undifferentiated) aquifers present underlying the Proposed Development and thus represent the worst-case receptor scenario. However, for completeness these should also be acknowledged as receptors.

## **APPENDIX C - INFORMATIVES FOR THE APPLICANT**

### **Biodiversity Informative**

#### ***Biodiversity Net Gain***

We appreciate at this stage there is little specific design information, however we have the following points for the applicant to consider moving forward.

For potential biodiversity net gain opportunities, we recommend the applicant refers to both the mitigation measures within the Water Framework Directive and opportunities identified within any Local Nature Recovery Strategies.

As advice we recommend the applicant follows the guidance recently released by DEFRA regarding BNG and NSIPs (published June 2026). This can be viewed on the [gov.uk website](https://www.gov.uk).

### **Geomorphology Informative**

#### ***Water Framework Directive***

WFD/WER applies to all waterbodies, not just those monitored for management purposes. Small rivers with less than 10km<sup>2</sup> catchment take their WFD status from the WFD waterbody that they flow into. Therefore, even though the Gale Brook is not monitored for WFD status, it takes its values from the River Gowy. As such, improvement of the Gale Brook may lead to an uplift in the status of the River Gowy, or at least not prevent it from achieving its best available status. It should also be noted that culverts on main rivers are a high risk to WFD status, regardless of scale.

#### ***Geomorphology General Considerations***

Should watercourse crossings be considered for the project we provide the below general considerations.

The following are general guiding principles to consider when designing watercourse crossings to avoid negatively affecting geomorphology and natural processes:

- Avoid unnecessary interference with natural processes. For instance, encourage use of trenchless techniques such as Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) to minimise the likelihood of cables entering the water environment.
- Ensure watercourse crossing design is informed by assessment of fluvial processes and geomorphology. For example, depth of HDD crossing should consider the likelihood of vertical channel change.

- Position of HDD/trenchless crossing should also take into consideration lateral movement of the watercourse. Ideally trenchless crossings should be launched/received outside of the floodplain.
- Ensure coastal landfall infrastructure is located outside of areas expected to be impacted by coastal change over the duration of the project.
- Avoid designs which present legacy risks to natural processes and geomorphology beyond the project lifespan. For example, infrastructure such as access tunnels which are left in-situ after decommissioning could be exposed by river movement, becoming an impediment to natural processes. Decommissioning plans should therefore take these factors into consideration and consider removal of such infrastructure at decommissioning or at any time after.
- Consider opportunities to deliver WFD mitigation measures, including Nature based Solutions (NbS), as part of the design.
- Avoid preventing delivery of mitigation measures, e.g. avoid bringing cables/pipelines to surface level in floodplains earmarked for future river restoration (see note above re. launch/reception locations).

**Notes:**

- I. WFD applies to all surface waterbodies, not just those designated for monitoring purposes.
- II. Small watercourses and WFD - watercourses with a catchment less than 10km<sup>2</sup> connected to a downstream WFD waterbody take the classification of that d/s waterbody.
- III. BNG guidelines indicate that structures built within 10 m of the bank top of a watercourse qualify as encroachment, which may affect the uplift score calculated using the BNG Watercourse metric.

*[BNG guidance is mentioned here because our [EA] usual easement for structures, operations, launch pits is to be at least 8m away from the watercourse bank or landward base of fluvial defence structure/embankment (16m if defence structure is for tidal purposes). As stated in the note above, BNG watercourse metric considers anything within 10m of banktop to be encroaching on the watercourse].*

- Any potential construction, operational, and decommissioning phase impacts that the proposed scheme may have on the river must be subject to a WFD Assessment to the satisfaction of the EA.
- Any infrastructural developments on river/floodplain environments should be designed and delivered to have a minimal impact on natural river dynamics (e.g. erosion, deposition, meander migration etc.) and should not place any significant limitations on future river restoration projects.

- Geomorphologically dynamic behaviour is deemed likely to intensify in the next decades in line with Flood Estimation Handbook (Flood Estimation Handbook (FEH) | UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology (ceh.ac.uk)). Therefore, any infrastructure developments should also take some account of the likelihood for increased lateral and vertical river dynamics anticipated to result from continued hydro-climatic intensification (e.g. 'a flood-rich epoch') over the remainder of the 21st century (i.e., future proofed designs that are not just based on present-day baseline geomorphological configuration/behaviour).
- If river crossings (bridges, culverts, and buried cables) are required as part of the development, we [EA] would expect to see geomorphologically robust designs that will cause minimal impacts on natural fluvial processes operating in the river/floodplain environment over the course of the 21st century.

Further guidance regarding river crossings can be found in the following document:

SEPA, 2010. Engineering in the water environment: good practice guide River crossings Second edition. SEPA [NB this has been referred to in the EIA scoping bibliography]

### ***Water course sensitivity***

- Care should be taken by applicants when determining watercourse sensitivity, especially the use of Q95 scores. Rivers with a higher Q95 flow are not more sensitive than rivers with a lower Q95. In the case of water quality, the reverse of this is true, with less dilution meaning a higher sensitivity to change. Some watercourses with low Q95 may also be winterbournes, and therefore cannot accommodate change easily, as they would be dry for most of the year.
- WFD designation is a method of monitoring and classifying the ecological health of the water environment and not an indication of greater or lesser sensitivity to change. Therefore, watercourses with a WFD designation are no more sensitive than those which have not been designated.

Sensitivity to change cannot be determined from a desk study alone. When determining the sensitivity of a watercourse, the applicant should ensure that professional judgement and the results of any surveys are also incorporated into the assessment.

## **Flood and Coastal Risk Management Informative**

### ***Sequential approach to site layout***

In accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework and the sequential test (paragraph 168), development should apply a sequential, risk-based approach to the location of development, taking account of all sources of flood risk and the current and future impact of climate change, to avoid (where possible) flood risk to people and property. The project should take a sequential approach where it can, and if there are any opportunities for development to be located outside of Flood Zones 2 and 3 this should be prioritised. A sequential approach should be taken to any site layout decisions within the site boundary, locating the most vulnerable elements of the development to areas of the lowest risk. The most vulnerable development may be any equipment that would be damaged by flood waters.

### ***Safety of site users from flooding through all stages of the development***

Planning practice guidance (PPG) states that, in determining whether a development is safe, the ability of site users to safely access and exit a site during a design flood event and to evacuate before an extreme flood needs to be considered. One of the key considerations to ensure that any new development is safe is whether adequate flood warnings would be available to people within the development.

We recommend referring to government document '[Flood risk emergency plans for new development](#)' to ensure proposal are safe for site users throughout all phases of the development.

### ***Design life***

Paragraph 2.4.8 states design life of the proposed development is 25 years, but paragraph 2.7.1 states that a decision will be made as to whether to extend the operational life of the Proposed Development, which may continue to operate beyond the 25 year period following maintenance and refurbishment.

For the purpose of the Flood Risk Assessment, we would expect the applicant to assume a design life of at least 75-years in line with the PPG (Paragraph: 006 Reference ID: 7-006-20220825) which states that: 'the lifetime of a non-residential development depends on the characteristics of that development but a period of at least 75 years is likely to form a starting point for assessment'.

### ***Flood Risk Activity Permits***

The Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016 require a permit to be obtained for any activities which will take place:

- On or within 8 metres of a main river (16 metres if tidal)
- On or within 8 metres of a flood defence structure or culvert (16 metres if tidal)
- tidal)

- On or within 16 metres of a sea defence
- Involving quarrying or excavation within 16 metres of any main river, flood
- defence (including a remote defence) or culvert
- In a floodplain more than 8 metres from the river bank, culvert or flood
- defence structure (16 metres if it's a tidal main river) and you don't already
- have planning permission.

For further guidance please visit <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/flood-risk-activities-environmental-permits> or contact our National Customer Contact Centre on 03702 422 549.

The applicant should not assume that a permit will automatically be forthcoming once a Development Consent Order (DCO) has been approved, and we advise the to consult us at the earliest opportunity.

### ***Flood Zone 3b***

The Scoping report states in paragraph 10.5.61 that a 1 in 20 or 1 in 25 annual probability event will be used for 3b. In line with the Planning Practice Guidance for Flood Risk and Coastal Change, Flood Zone 3b (functional floodplain) should comprise:

- Land having a 3.3% or greater annual probability of flooding, with any existing flood risk management infrastructure operating effectively
- Land that is designed to flood (such as a flood attenuation scheme), even if it would only flood in more extreme events (such as 0.1% annual probability of flooding).

### ***Climate change allowances – credible maximum scenarios***

As set out in the government document 'Flood Risk Assessments: climate change allowances', Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects should assess the flood risk from a credible maximum climate change scenario. For this, the H++ climate change allowance should be used for sea level rise, and the upper end allowance for peak river flow.

## **Groundwater and Contaminated Land Informative**

### ***Dewatering***

Dewatering is the removal/abstraction of water (predominantly, but not confined to, groundwater) in order to locally lower water levels near the excavation. This can allow operations to take place, such as mining, quarrying, building, engineering works or other operations, whether underground or on the surface. Any dewatering activities on-site could have an impact upon local wells, water supplies and/or nearby watercourses and environmental interests. This activity was previously exempt from requiring an abstraction licence.

Since 1 January 2018, most cases of new planned dewatering operations above 20 cubic metres a day will require a water abstraction licence from us prior to the commencement of dewatering activities at the site.

More information is available on gov.uk:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/water-management-apply-for-a-water-abstraction-or-impoundment-licence#apply-for-a-licence-for-a-previously-exempt-abstraction>

### ***Model Procedures and good practice***

This development site appears to have been the subject of past industrial activity which may pose a risk of pollution to controlled waters.

We recommend that you should:

- Follow the risk management framework provided in Guidance on Land contamination risk management (LCRM) Land contamination risk management (LCRM) - GOV.UK ([www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)), when dealing with land affected by contamination
- Refer to the contaminated land pages on gov.uk for more information
- Refer to 'The Environment Agency's approach to groundwater protection'

All investigations of land potentially affected by contamination should be carried out by or under the direction of a suitably qualified competent person and in accordance with BS 10175 (2001) Code of practice for the investigation of potentially contaminated sites.

### ***Waste on-site***

Where the remediation / redevelopment of the site will involve waste management issues we offer the following advice:

The CL:AIRE Definition of Waste: Development Industry Code of Practice (version 2) provides operators with a framework for determining whether or not excavated

material arising from site during remediation and/or land development works is waste or has ceased to be waste. Under the Code of Practice:

- Excavated materials that are recovered via a treatment operation can be reused on-site providing they are treated to a standard such that they are fit for purpose and unlikely to cause pollution
- Treated materials can be transferred between sites as part of a hub and cluster project
- Some naturally occurring clean material can be transferred directly between sites

Developers should ensure that all contaminated materials are adequately characterised both chemically and physically, and that the permitting status of any proposed on-site operations are clear. If in doubt, the Environment Agency should be contacted for advice at an early stage to avoid any delays.

We recommend that developers should refer to:

- The position statement on the Definition of Waste: Development Industry Code of Practice
- The waste management page on GOV.Uk

### ***Waste to be taken off-site***

Contaminated soil that is (or must be) disposed of is waste. Therefore, its handling, transport, treatment and disposal are subject to waste management legislation, which includes:

- Duty of Care Regulations 1991
- Hazardous Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2005
- Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016
- The Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011

Developers should ensure that all contaminated materials are adequately characterised both chemically and physically in line with British Standard BS EN 14899:2005 'Characterization of Waste - Sampling of Waste Materials - Framework for the Preparation and Application of a Sampling Plan' and that the permitting status of any proposed treatment or disposal activity is clear. If in doubt, the Environment Agency should be contacted for advice at an early stage to avoid any delays.

If the total quantity of hazardous waste material produced or taken off-site is 500kg or greater in any 12 month period, the developer will need to register with us as a hazardous waste producer. Refer to the hazardous waste pages on GOV.UK for more information.

### ***Introduction of SUDS***

Approved Document Part H of the Building Regulations 2000 establishes a hierarchy for surface water disposal, which encourages a SUDS approach. Under Approved Document Part H the first option for surface water disposal should be the use of SUDS, which encourage infiltration such as soakaways or infiltration trenches.

In all cases, it should be established that these options are feasible, can be adopted and properly maintained and would not lead to any other environmental problems.

For example, using soakaways or other infiltration methods on contaminated land carries groundwater pollution risks and may not work in areas with a high water table. Where the intention is to dispose to soakaway, these should be shown to work through an appropriate assessment carried out under Building Research Establishment (BRE) Digest 365.

### ***Regulatory Position Statements***

Discharges from dewatering to surface water or groundwater will require an Environmental Permit unless you can meet the conditions of the RPS or exemptions or exclusions for groundwater activities.

The following Regulatory Position Statement will apply: 'Temporary dewatering from excavations to surface water.'

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/temporary-dewatering-from-excavations-to-surface-water>

**From:** [Town Clerk - FTC](#)  
**To:** [Stanlow Hydrogen and CHP](#)  
**Subject:** RE: EN0110007- Stanlow Hydrogen Ready Modular Combined Heat and Power Project - EIA Scoping Consultation and Notification  
**Date:** 29 September 2026 10:19:02  
**Attachments:** [image008.png](#)  
[image009.png](#)  
[image011.png](#)  
[image012.png](#)  
[image013.png](#)  
[image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)

---

You don't often get email from townclerk@flinttowncouncil.gov.wales. [Learn why this is important](#)

Please find comments from Flint Town Council.

*At this stage, the Council considers it difficult to provide detailed comments without further information.*

*The Council raises concerns regarding the potential health and environmental impacts of the proposed development and the need for a robust and meaningful assessment of these impacts, particularly given the proximity of the Stanlow site to Flint.*

*The Council also raises concerns regarding the industrial and potentially contaminated nature of the area and the potential implications for Flintshire and future generations.*



**FLINT TOWN COUNCIL / CYNGOR TREF Y FFLINT**

**Town Clerk**

**Email:** [townclerk@flinttowncouncil.gov.wales](mailto:townclerk@flinttowncouncil.gov.wales)

**Telephone number:**

**Town Hall, Market Square, Flint, CH6 5NW**

---

**From:** Stanlow Hydrogen and CHP

<stanlowhydrogenandchp@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>

**Sent:** 03 September 2026 09:10

**Subject:** EN0110007- Stanlow Hydrogen Ready Modular Combined Heat and Power Project - EIA Scoping Consultation and Notification

Dear Sir/Madam

Please see attached correspondence on the proposed Stanlow Hydrogen Ready Modular

Combined Heat and Power Project.

The Applicant for the proposed development intends to make an application for Development Consent under the Planning Act 2008. The Applicant has sought a Scoping Opinion from the Planning Inspectorate, on behalf of the Secretary of State, as to the scope and level of detail of the information to be provided within the Environmental Statement that will accompany its future application.

The Planning Inspectorate has identified you as a consultation body to inform the Scoping Opinion and is therefore inviting you to submit comments by **01 October 2026**. The deadline is a statutory requirement that cannot be extended.

Further information is included within the attached letter.

Kind regards,

[Redacted Signature]



The Planning  
Inspectorate

[Redacted Name] | Environmental Advisor  
The Planning Inspectorate



@PINSgov



The Planning Inspectorate



[planninginspectorate.gov.uk](https://planninginspectorate.gov.uk)

Ensuring **fairness**, **openness** and **impartiality** across all our services

This communication does not constitute legal advice.

Please view our [Information Charter](#) before sending information to the Planning Inspectorate. Our [Customer Privacy Notice](#) sets out how we handle personal data in accordance with the law.

*Please note that the contents of this email and any attachments are privileged and/or confidential and intended solely for the use of the intended recipient. If you are not the intended recipient of this email and its attachments, you must take no action based upon them, nor must you copy or show them to anyone. Please contact the sender if you believe you have received this email in error and then delete this email from your system.*

*Recipients should note that e-mail traffic on Planning Inspectorate systems is subject to monitoring, recording and auditing to secure the effective operation of the system and for other lawful purposes. The Planning Inspectorate has taken steps to keep this e-mail and any attachments free from viruses. It accepts no liability for any loss or damage caused as a result of any virus being passed on. It is the responsibility of the recipient to perform all necessary checks. The statements expressed in this e-mail are personal and do not necessarily reflect the opinions or policies of the Inspectorate.*

DPC:76616c646f72

Please take a moment to review the **[Planning Inspectorate's Privacy Notice](#)** which can be accessed by clicking this link.

**North West & West Midlands Area Office**

Ghyll Mount  
Gillan Way  
Penrith 40 Business Park  
Penrith  
Cumbria  
CA11 9BP

Tel: 0300 067 5103

[nwwm@forestrycommission.gov.uk](mailto:nwwm@forestrycommission.gov.uk)

**Area Director**  
Keith Jones

Environmental Services, Infrastructure Decisions  
and Applications Service  
Planning Inspectorate  
c/o QUADIENT  
69 Buckingham Avenue  
Slough  
SL1 4PN

Ref: EN0110007

Date: 24 September 2026

Dear Sir/Madam

**Proposed application for Stanlow Hydrogen Ready Modular Combined Heat and Power Project**

Thank you for your email of 3 September 2026.

Although there is no ancient woodland within 500m of the development area, where possible we would like to see the woodland/scrub to the north (SJ 4435 7584) and southeast (SJ 4496 7497) retained. If trees are to be removed, we trust there will be compensatory planting elsewhere on the site.

Trees play a crucial role in achieving BNG by providing habitats for wildlife, improving air quality, and contributing to climate resilience. We encourage the integration of tree planting and woodland creation into your development plans to meet BNG requirements and enhance local biodiversity.

Yours sincerely



  
Area Admin Officer

By email only:

[stanlowhydrogenandchp@planninginspectorate.gov.uk](mailto:stanlowhydrogenandchp@planninginspectorate.gov.uk)

CEMHD - Land Use Planning,  
NSIP Consultations,  
Building 1.2, Redgrave Court  
Merton Road, Bootle,  
Merseyside L20 7HS.  
[NSIP.applications@hse.gov.uk](mailto:NSIP.applications@hse.gov.uk)

Date: 8/09/2026

Dear Sir/Madam,

**PROPOSED STANLOW HYDROGEN READY MODULAR COMBINED HEAT AND POWER  
PROJECT  
PROPOSAL BY ESSAR ENERGY TRANSITION FUELS (EET FUELS)  
INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) REGULATIONS  
2017 (AS AMENDED) REGULATIONS 10 AND 11**

Thank you for your e-mail of dated 3/09/2026 regarding the information to be provided in an environmental statement relating to the above project.

**HSE's land use planning advice:**

**Will the proposed development fall within any of HSE's consultation distances?**

With reference to the **Site Red Line Boundary** shown in **FIGURE 1.1 - SITE LOCATION PLAN**, which encompasses all proposed **Stanlow Project Boundaries** shown in **Figure 1.2**, found via link [<https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN0110007/documents>] the proposed development does not fall within HSE public safety zones associated with **Major Accident Hazard Pipelines (MAHPs)**.

The proposed development would be located wholly within the boundary of the **Stanlow Manufacturing Complex (SMC)**, which is itself a **Major Hazard Installation (MHI)**. HSE's land-use planning consultation arrangements are intended to manage developments in the vicinity of major hazard sites and pipelines. Consequently, HSE would not normally advise against development proposals located within the operational boundary of the Major Hazard Installation\* itself.

\* See **Table 1 Development type: People at work, Parking** found in **HSE's Land Use Planning Methodology** [<https://www.hse.gov.uk/landuseplanning/methodology.htm>].

Should a new Major Accident Hazard Pipeline be introduced, or an existing Pipeline modified prior to the determination of the present application, then the HSE reserves the right to revise its advice.

If prior to the determination of the present application, a Hazardous Substances Consent be granted for a new Major Hazard Installation or a Hazardous Substances Consent is varied for an existing Major Hazard Installation in the vicinity of the proposed development, then the HSE reserves the right to revise its advice.

**Would Hazardous Substances Consent be needed?**

The presence of hazardous substances on, over or under land at or above set threshold quantities (Controlled Quantities) may require Hazardous Substances Consent (HSC) under the Planning (Hazardous Substances) Act 1990 as amended. The substances, alone or when aggregated with others, for which HSC is required, and the associated Controlled Quantities, are set out in The Planning (Hazardous Substances) Regulations 2015.

Hazardous Substances Consent would be required if the site is intending to store or use any of the Named Hazardous Substances or Categories of Substances and Preparations at or above the controlled quantities set out in schedule 1 of these Regulations.

Existing Hazardous Substances Consents may require variation where there are changes to the type, quantity, or location of hazardous substances on site.

Further information on HSC should be sought from the relevant Hazardous Substances Authority.

**Explosives Sites:**

Explosives Inspectorate has no comment to make as there are no HSE licenced explosives sites in the vicinity of the proposed development.

At this time, please send any further communication on this project directly to the HSE's designated e-mail account for NSIP applications at [nsip.applications@hse.gov.uk](mailto:nsip.applications@hse.gov.uk). We are currently unable to accept hard copies, as our offices have limited access.

Yours sincerely

CEMHD NSIP Consultation Team

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Stanlow Hydrogen and CHP](#)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** N0110007- Stanlow Hydrogen Ready Modular Combined Heat and Power Project - EIA Scoping Consultation and Notification  
**Date:** 25 September 2026 11:10:05  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

---

You don't often get email from [clerk@helsbyparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@helsbyparishcouncil.gov.uk). [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Sir/Madam,

Helsby Parish Council notes the submission of this EIA Scoping Report and the potential impacts of the proposed development on the area surrounding the Stanlow Manufacturing Complex.

We welcome the requirement for a Traffic and Movement Assessment to consider the potential effects of the development during the construction, operational and decommissioning phases.

Figure 17.3 identifies the transport study area, including M56 Junction 14 (designated junction 6) and the A5117 road connecting the motorway to Helsby (designated road links 10a and 10b). We wish to emphasise that this part of the network is particularly vulnerable when incidents occur on the M56 between Junctions 12 and 14. Such incidents occur several times each year and regularly result in motorway traffic being diverted along the A5117 and A56 through Helsby and Frodsham. This causes severe congestion, long delays and significant disruption to local residents and businesses. The Traffic and Movement Assessment should therefore consider not only normal operating conditions, but also the effects of the development when motorway traffic is diverted onto the local road network.

We also note that Table 17.5, which lists committed developments, does not appear to include residential developments in Helsby that will increase traffic using M56 Junction 14. Approximately 330 new homes are currently being occupied at the Mere's Edge development on the A56 near its junction with the A5117. Applications have also been submitted for a further 280 homes at the same site and around 330 additional homes at two other sites on or close to the A56 in Helsby. These developments are likely to generate significant additional traffic and should be included in the cumulative traffic assessment.

The parish council is also concerned that Table 17.5 does not fully reflect the impact of traffic associated with the Protos development. Although the planning history of the site is complex, Protos is likely to reach its consented limit of up to 718 two-way vehicle movements per day. This is particularly relevant given that Cheshire West and Chester Council's Planning Committee approved Peel's application to remove the requirement for a rail link to the site on 7 October 2025, subject to completion of the associated Section 106 Agreement (hence the application still appears as "awaiting decision"). The resulting increase in road-based traffic should be reflected in the transport modelling, and the

cumulative impact of Protos should be fully assessed alongside other committed and proposed developments.

Accordingly, Helsby Parish Council requests that the EIA Scoping Opinion requires a comprehensive cumulative traffic assessment which includes:

- The effects of incidents on the M56 that divert traffic onto the A5117 and A56 through Helsby and Frodsham;
- Existing and proposed residential developments in Helsby;
- The full consented traffic impacts of the Protos development; and
- The combined impact of these factors alongside traffic generated by the proposed development during construction, operation and decommissioning.

Kind regards,



**Parish Clerk**

**Phone:** [REDACTED]

**Email:** [clerk@helsbyparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@helsbyparishcouncil.gov.uk)

Helsby Parish Council  
Helsby Community Sports Club,  
Callender Way, Helsby, Cheshire, WA6 0FX

Visit our new website at: [www.helsbyparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.helsbyparishcouncil.gov.uk)

**From:** SM-MMO-SH - MFA Marine Consents (MMO)  
<marine.consents@marinemanagement.org.uk>  
**Sent:** 03 September 2026 11:05  
**To:** Stanlow Hydrogen and CHP  
**Subject:** Re: EN0110007- Stanlow Hydrogen Ready Modular Combined Heat and Power Project - EIA Scoping Consultation and Notification

You don't often get email from marine.consents@marinemanagement.org.uk. [Learn why this is important](#)

## Marine Licensing, Wildlife Licences and other permissions

Dear Sir/Madam,

Please be aware that any works within the Marine area require a licence from the Marine Management Organisation. It is down to the applicant themselves to take the necessary steps to ascertain whether their works will fall below the Mean High Water Springs mark.

### Response to your consultation

The Marine Management Organisation (MMO) is a non-departmental public body responsible for the management of England's marine area on behalf of the UK government. The MMO's delivery functions are; marine planning, marine licensing, wildlife licensing and enforcement, marine protected area management, marine emergencies, fisheries management and issuing European grants.

### Marine Licensing

Works activities taking place below the mean high water mark may require a marine licence in accordance with the Marine and Coastal Access Act (MCAA) 2009.

Such activities include the construction, alteration or improvement of any works, dredging, or a deposit or removal of a substance or object below the mean high water springs mark or in any tidal river to the extent of the tidal influence.

Applicants should be directed to the MMO's online portal to register for an application for marine licence

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/make-a-marine-licence-application>

You can also apply to the MMO for consent under the Electricity Act 1989 (as amended) for offshore generating stations between 1 and 100 megawatts in English waters.

The MMO is also the authority responsible for processing and determining Harbour Orders in England, together with granting consent under various local Acts and orders regarding harbours.

A wildlife licence is also required for activities that that would affect a UK or European protected marine species.

The MMO is a signatory to the coastal concordat and operates in accordance with its principles. Should the activities subject to planning permission meet the above criteria then the applicant should be directed to the follow pages: check if you need a marine licence and asked to quote the following information on any resultant marine licence application:

local planning authority name,

planning officer name and contact details,

planning application reference.

Following submission of a marine licence application a case team will be in touch with the relevant planning officer to discuss next steps.

## Environmental Impact Assessment

With respect to projects that require a marine licence the EIA Directive (codified in Directive 2011/92/EU) is transposed into UK law by the Marine Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2007 (the MWR), as amended. Before a marine licence can be granted for projects that require EIA, MMO must ensure that applications for a marine licence are compliant with the MWR.

In cases where a project requires both a marine licence and terrestrial planning permission, both the MWR and The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2017/571/contents/made> may be applicable.

If this consultation request relates to a project capable of falling within either set of EIA regulations, then it is advised that the applicant submit a request directly to the MMO to ensure any requirements under the MWR are considered adequately at the following link

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/make-a-marine-licence-application>

## Marine Planning

Under the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 ch.4, 58, public authorities must make decisions in accordance with marine policy documents and if it takes a decision that is against these policies it must state its reasons. MMO as such are responsible for implementing the relevant Marine Plans for their area, through existing regulatory and decision-making processes.

Marine plans will inform and guide decision makers on development in marine and coastal areas. Proposals should conform with all relevant policies, taking account of economic, environmental and social considerations. Marine plans are a statutory consideration for public authorities with decision making functions.

At its landward extent, a marine plan will apply up to the mean high water springs mark, which includes the tidal extent of any rivers. As marine plan boundaries extend up to the level of the mean high water spring tides mark, there will be an overlap with terrestrial plans which generally extend to the mean low water springs mark.

A [map](#) showing how England's waters have been split into 6 marine plan areas is available on our website. For further information on how to apply the marine plans please visit our [Explore Marine Plans](#) service.

Planning documents for areas with a coastal influence may wish to make reference to the MMO's licensing requirements and any relevant marine plans to ensure that necessary regulations are adhered to. All public authorities taking authorisation or enforcement decisions that affect or might affect the UK marine area must do so in accordance with the [Marine and Coastal Access Act](#) and the [UK Marine Policy Statement](#) unless relevant considerations indicate otherwise. Local authorities may also wish to refer to our [online guidance](#) and the [Planning Advisory Service soundness self-assessment checklist](#). If you wish to contact your local marine planning officer you can find their details on our [gov.uk page](#).

## Minerals and waste plans and local aggregate assessments

If you are consulting on a mineral/waste plan or local aggregate assessment, the MMO recommend reference to marine aggregates is included and reference to be made to the documents below;

The Marine Policy Statement (MPS), section 3.5 which highlights the importance of marine aggregates and its supply to England's (and the UK) construction industry.

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) which sets out policies for national (England) construction minerals supply.

The Managed Aggregate Supply System (MASS) which includes specific references to the role of marine aggregates in the wider portfolio of supply.

The National and regional guidelines for aggregates provision in England 2005-2020 predict likely aggregate demand over this period including marine supply.

The NPPF informed MASS guidance requires local mineral planning authorities to prepare Local Aggregate Assessments, these assessments have to consider the opportunities and constraints of all mineral supplies into their planning regions – including marine. This means that even land-locked counties, may have to consider the role that marine sourced supplies (delivered by rail or river) play – particularly where land based resources are becoming increasingly constrained.

If you require further guidance on the Marine Licencing process, please follow the link <https://www.gov.uk/topic/planning-development/marine-licences>

Regards

[Redacted]

[Redacted] | Administration Officer Business Support Team | Marine Management Organisation

Lancaster House, Hampshire Court, Newcastle Business Park, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE4 7YH

[Redacted] [@marinemanagement.org.uk](mailto:@marinemanagement.org.uk) | Tel: [Redacted] Mob: [Redacted]

[Website](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Linkedin](#) | [Blog](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Flickr](#) | [YouTube](#) | [Google+](#) | [Pinterest](#)

**Our MMO Values:** Together we are **Accountable**, **Innovative**, **Engaging** and **Inclusive**



---

**From:** Stanlow Hydrogen and CHP <stanlowhydrogenandchp@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>

**Sent:** 03 September 2026 08:41

**To:** SM-MMO-SH - MFA Marine Consents (MMO) <marine.consents@marinemanagement.org.uk>

**Cc:** [Redacted]@marinemanagement.org.uk>

**Subject:** EN0110007- Stanlow Hydrogen Ready Modular Combined Heat and Power Project - EIA Scoping Consultation and Notification

Some people who received this message don't often get email from stanlowhydrogenandchp@planninginspectorate.gov.uk. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Sir/Madam,

Please see attached correspondence on the proposed Stanlow Hydrogen Ready Modular Combined Heat and Power Project.

The Applicant for the proposed development intends to make an application for Development Consent under the Planning Act 2008. The Applicant has sought a Scoping Opinion from the Planning Inspectorate, on behalf of the Secretary of State, as to the scope and level of detail of the information to be provided within the Environmental Statement that will accompany its future application.



PINS reference: **EN0110007**

**By email only**

25 September 2026

Dear Sir/Madam,

**RE: EN0110007 - Stanlow Hydrogen Ready Modular Combined Heat and Power Project - EIA Scoping Consultation and Notification**

This letter is in response to the scoping opinion consultation request for the proposed Stanlow Hydrogen Ready Modular Combined Heat and Power Project, received by the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) on 3 September 2026.

The MMO has reviewed the information provided within the submitted scoping documentation. Based on the information available, the proposed development appears to comprise an onshore combined heat and power facility located within the existing Stanlow Manufacturing Complex.

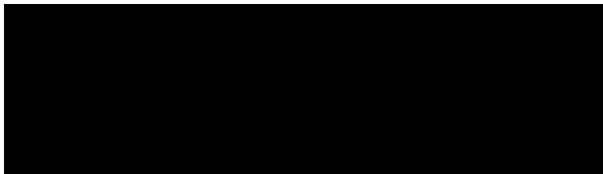
The MMO has not identified any activities within the scoping report which indicate that the proposed development would extend below Mean High Water Springs (MHWS) or otherwise involve activities which would fall within the MMO's jurisdiction. In particular:

- The proposed development site is identified as being approximately 0.7 km south of the Mersey Estuary and no works within the estuary are described.
- References to existing abstraction licences and existing site drainage arrangements appear to relate to baseline site conditions and existing infrastructure rather than new works proposed as part of the development.
- The documentation does not identify any dredging activities, marine construction works, new intake or outfall structures to waters below MHWS, or other marine licensable activities.

On the basis of the information currently available, the MMO considers that no part of the proposed project falls within its regulatory jurisdiction. Accordingly, no further comments will be provided unless specifically requested by the Planning Inspectorate.

The MMO reserves the right to provide further comments on the project throughout the pre-application process and may revise its current advice or opinion in light of any additional information that comes to its attention. This representation is submitted without prejudice to any decision the MMO may make in relation to any associated application for consent, permission, approval, or other authorisation, either for works in the marine area or for any other relevant aspect of the proposed development.

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me using the details provided below.



Marine Licensing Case Manager

D  
E



[@marinemanagement.org.uk](mailto:[redacted]@marinemanagement.org.uk)



Maritime &  
Coastguard  
Agency

**Maritime and Coastguard Agency**  
Marine Safety & PNT Services  
Spring Place  
105 Commercial Road  
Southampton  
SO15 1EG

[www.gov.uk/mca](http://www.gov.uk/mca)

Your Ref: EN0110007

1 October 2026

Environmental Services  
Infrastructure Decisions and Applications Service  
Planning Inspectorate  
c/o QUADIENT  
69 Buckingham Avenue  
Slough  
SL1 4PN

Via email: [stanlowhydrogenandchp@planninginspectorate.gov.uk](mailto:stanlowhydrogenandchp@planninginspectorate.gov.uk)

Dear Planning Inspectorate,

**Planning Act 2008 (as amended) and The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (The EIA Regulations) – Regulations 10 and 11**

**Proposed application by Essar Energy Transition Fuels (EET Fuels) (the applicant) for an Order granting Development Consent for the Stanlow Hydrogen Ready Modular Combined Heat and Power Project (the proposed development)**

**Scoping consultation and notification of the applicant's contact details and duty to make available information to the applicant if requested**

Thank you for your letter dated 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2026, inviting comments on the Scoping Report for the proposed Stanlow Hydrogen Ready Modular Combined Heat and Power Project. The Scoping Report has been considered by representatives of Marine Safety and PNT Services at the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA), and the MCA would like to respond as follows:

The MCA has an interest in the works associated with the marine environment, and the potential impact on the safety of navigation, access to ports, harbours, and marinas, and any impact on our search and rescue obligations.

We note that the project involves the construction of hydrogen ready gas turbines paired with hydrogen ready Heat Recovery Steam Generators (HRSGs), steam turbine units, reciprocating gas engines and backup power supply (Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)) which is being built in two phases. This DCO application is solely for Phase 2 of the works which include (but are not limited to) the construction and operation of additional hydrogen ready gas turbines, heat recovery steam generators and steam turbines.

Based on the information provided in the Scoping Report, it is our understanding that there are no activities proposed below the Mean High-Water Spring, nor are there any marine construction activities that would be likely to affect navigation or other marine users. On this basis, the MCA has no further comments to make at this stage of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process.

Should the project proposals be amended such that any works fall within the scope of a marine licensable activity, or otherwise have the potential to affect navigation, marine users, or MCA interests, we would expect to be consulted further and provided with the opportunity to review the proposals at that stage.

Subject to the above understanding, the MCA is satisfied that the Scoping Report provides an appropriate basis for the preparation of the Environmental Impact Assessment and subsequent Environmental Statement from a shipping and navigation perspective. Any material changes to the project that could introduce impacts on the marine environment or navigation should be appropriately reassessed.

I hope this information is useful at the Scoping Stage. Should you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours faithfully,



Marine Licensing Project Lead  
Marine Safety & PNT Services

**From:** [REDACTED]@mod.gov.uk  
**Sent:** 07 September 2026 08:55  
**To:** Stanlow Hydrogen and CHP  
**Subject:** 20260907\_0754Z-RE: EN0110007- Stanlow Hydrogen Ready Modular Combined Heat and Power Project - EIA Scoping Consultation and Notification

**Categories:** EST

You don't often get email from [REDACTED]@mod.gov.uk. [Learn why this is important](#)

Good morning,

Thank you for consulting the MOD on application reference EN0110007

The Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) Safeguarding Team represents the Ministry of Defence (MOD) as a consultee in UK planning and energy consenting systems to ensure that development does not compromise or degrade the operation of defence sites such as aerodromes, explosives storage sites, air weapon ranges, and technical sites or training resources such as the Military Low Flying System.

**I can confirm that, following review of the application documents, the proposed development falls outside of MOD safeguarded areas and does not affect other defence interests. The MOD, therefore, has no objection to the development proposed.**

The MOD must emphasise that this email is provided specifically in response to the application documents and supporting information provided on the Planning Inspectorate website's as of the date of this email.

Amendments to any element of the proposed development (including the location, dimensions, form, and/or finishing materials of any structure) may significantly alter how the development relates to MOD safeguarding requirements and may result in detrimental impact(s) on the operation or capability of defence sites or assets.

In the event that any revised plans, amended plans, additional information or further application(s) are submitted for approval, the MOD, as a statutory consultee, should be consulted and provided with adequate time to carry out assessments and provide a formal response whether the proposed amendments are considered material or not by the determining authority.

Kind Regards

[REDACTED] | Safeguarding Manager

Defence Infrastructure Organisation | National Armaments Director Group

Estates | Safeguarding

Defence Infrastructure Organisation | St George's House | DMS Whittington | Lichfield | Staffordshire | WS14 9PY

Mobile: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]@mod.gov.uk

Website: [www.mod.uk/dio/](http://www.mod.uk/dio/)

 **National Armaments Director Group**

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Stanlow Hydrogen and CHP](#)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED] [Spatial Planning](#)  
**Subject:** EN0110007 Stanlow Hydrogen Ready Modular Combined - National Highways Scoping Response  
**Date:** 30 September 2026 09:43:51

---

You don't often get email from [REDACTED]@nationalhighways.co.uk. [Learn why this is important](#)

## To Whom It May Concern:

National Highways has completed a review of the Scoping Report and appendices, taking into account the information previously agreed as part of the Phase 1 planning application and pre-scoping engagement. The following comments are raised:

- The proposed assessment methodology follows standard guidance and is generally agreed in principle. The proposed assumptions are consistent with those agreed for Phase 1 and the pre-scoping information discussed and provided by email on 30<sup>th</sup> July 2026.
- However, it is noted that the assessment methodology assumes that the Phase 1 construction works will be substantially complete prior to the Phase 2 works commencing. At present, the planning application for Phase 1 is yet to be determined and it is possible that the programme will move back. National Highways would recommend the DCO for Phase 2 includes a requirement that construction works for Phase 2 cannot commence until either:
  - Phase 1 construction is substantially completed or
  - The Applicant can demonstrate and agree with the relevant highway authorities that the combined impact of construction trips from both Phases can be adequately managed or mitigated
- It is considered that the sensitivity of SRN links at the M56 J14 (off-slips and mainline) should be re-classified from negligible to medium given that the PIC analysis on the Phase 1 TA identified eleven slight and two serious collisions. The SRN links at the M53 J10 should be re-classified from negligible to high given the known congestion issues at this location and the number of recorded collisions (both detailed within the Phase 1 TA), and also noting the seasonal and event driven periods of increased congestion related to the Cheshire Oaks development and the associated junction operational management plan.
- It is agreed that the consideration of operational impacts has been scoped out in respect of Traffic and Transport.
- The study area is the same as for the Phase 1 planning application and is agreed.
- The proposed baseline data is agreed. Care should be taken in the consideration of PIC data to ensure the time period chosen is not skewed by events such as Covid lockdowns and that a full five years of representative data is presented, which may require presentation of pre-Covid data. It is noted

that there is relatively limited scope for trips to be made using active travel or public transport and therefore it is expected the majority of construction staff trips will be made by car or LGV.

- It is requested that WSP (Applicant) confirm that the content of Table 17.5 (Identified Committed Developments Scoped In/Out) has been discussed and agreed with the local planning authority, as required by Footnote 21 of Circular 01/2022.
- National Highways would welcome early sight of drafts of relevant documents including the CTMP and CWTP so that any potential issues can be discussed and resolved in a collaborative manner before commencement of the DCO Examination. National Highways would wish to be consulted in advance upon the management of hazardous or large loads including AILs and such movements would need to be managed through the ESDAL system.
- Finally, National Highways would request that WSP (Applicant) ensure that they are cognisant of all relevant elements of the Circular and ensure their assessment is fully compliant with it.

In summary, National Highways is broadly satisfied with the proposed scope and methodology of the assessment, subject to the comments set out above. The matters raised are intended to ensure that the Environmental Impact Assessment and supporting transport evidence provide a robust and comprehensive assessment of the potential impacts on the SRN. National Highways looks forward to continued engagement with the Applicant throughout the Development Consent Order process and would welcome the opportunity to review draft documentation at an early stage to facilitate the timely resolution of any outstanding matters.

Yours faithfully,

[Redacted Signature]

[Redacted Name] **Assistant Spatial Planner (Cheshire & Merseyside)**

Operations North West

National Highways | Falcon House | Fulwood Park | Preston | PR2 9NZ

**Mobile:** [Redacted]

**Web:** <https://nationalhighways.co.uk/our-roads/planning-and-the-strategic-road-network-in-england/>

This email may contain information which is confidential and is intended only for use of the recipient/s named above. If you are not an intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any copying, distribution, disclosure, reliance upon or other use of the contents of this email is strictly prohibited. If you have received this email in error, please notify the sender and destroy it.

**National Highways Limited | General enquiries: 0300 123 5000 | National Traffic Operations Centre, 3 Ridgeway, Quinton Business Park, Birmingham B32 1AF | <https://nationalhighways.co.uk> | [info@nationalhighways.co.uk](mailto:info@nationalhighways.co.uk)**

*Registered in England and Wales no 9346363 | Registered Office: Three Snowhill,  
Snowhill Queensway, Birmingham, B4 6GA*

Consider the environment. Please don't print this e-mail unless you really need to.

**From:** NATS Safeguarding <NATSSafeguarding@nats.co.uk>  
**Sent:** 03 September 2026 16:08  
**To:** Stanlow Hydrogen and CHP  
**Subject:** RE: EN0110007- Stanlow Hydrogen Ready Modular Combined Heat and Power Project - EIA Scoping Consultation and Notification [SG42152]

**Categories:** EST

You don't often get email from natssafeguarding@nats.co.uk. [Learn why this is important](#)

Our Ref: SG42152

Dear Sir/Madam

The proposed development has been examined from a technical safeguarding aspect and does not conflict with our safeguarding criteria. Accordingly, NATS (En Route) Public Limited Company ("NERL") has no safeguarding objection to the proposal.

However, please be aware that this response applies specifically to the above consultation and only reflects the position of NATS (that is responsible for the management of en route air traffic) based on the information supplied at the time of this application. This letter does not provide any indication of the position of any other party, whether they be an airport, airspace user or otherwise. It remains your responsibility to ensure that all the appropriate consultees are properly consulted.

If any changes are proposed to the information supplied to NATS in regard to this application which become the basis of a revised, amended or further application for approval, then as a statutory consultee NERL requires that it be further consulted on any such changes prior to any planning permission or any consent being granted.

Yours faithfully

**NATS**

NATS Safeguarding

E: [natssafeguarding@nats.co.uk](mailto:natssafeguarding@nats.co.uk)

4000 Parkway, Whiteley,  
Fareham, Hants PO15 7FL  
[www.nats.co.uk](http://www.nats.co.uk)



NATS Internal

**From:** Stanlow Hydrogen and CHP <stanlowhydrogenandchp@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** 03 September 2026 09:10  
**Subject:** EN0110007- Stanlow Hydrogen Ready Modular Combined Heat and Power Project - EIA Scoping Consultation and Notification

Date: 01 October 2026  
Our ref: 557890  
Your ref: EN0110007



The Planning Inspectorate

[stanlowhydrogenandchp@planninginspectorate.gov.uk](mailto:stanlowhydrogenandchp@planninginspectorate.gov.uk)

**BY EMAIL ONLY**

Consultations  
Hornbeam House  
Crewe Business Park  
Electra Way  
Crewe  
Cheshire  
CW1 6GJ

T 0300 060 900

Dear [REDACTED]

**Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Consultation under Regulation 10 of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the EIA Regulations) – Regulation 11**

**Proposal:** Proposed application by Essar Energy Transition Fuels (EET Fuels) for an Order granting Development Consent for the Stanlow Hydrogen Ready Modular Combined Heat and Power Project

**Location:** Stanlow Manufacturing Complex, Ellesmere Port, Cheshire, CH65 4HB

Thank you for seeking our advice on the scope of the Environmental Statement (ES) in the consultation dated 03 September 2026, received on the same date.

Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

A robust assessment of environmental impacts and opportunities, based on relevant and up to date environmental information, should be undertaken prior to an application for a Development Consent Order (DCO).

A summary of our key comments on the scope of the development is below. Annex A to this letter provides Natural England's detailed advice on the scope of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the proposed development. We also include our standard air quality advice for NSIPs as Annex B to this letter for reference.

Natural England have been engaged with the applicant via our Discretionary Advice Service (DAS) to provide early advice in relation to the scope of issues, including air quality. We hope this engagement will continue throughout the pre-application process.

**Summary of main comments on the proposed EIA scope**

**General Approach - Cumulative/In Combination Assessment**

- The proposed development is intrinsically linked to, and forms an essential part of, both the development of the Stanlow Manufacturing Complex and the wider implementation of the HyNet network, making a robust assessment of cumulative and in-combination effects essential. The proposed approach to assessing the shared CHP infrastructure is considered both pragmatic and precautionary. The ES and HRA should clearly define the developments included within the in-combination assessment and robustly assess all project-specific and cumulative effects.

## **Air Quality**

- Natural England generally supports the proposed air quality assessment methodology and scope. However, a number of matters require clarification and further consideration within the ES and HRA. These include further justification of ecological critical loads and levels, and a robust assessment of impacts on designated sites including the Mersey Estuary SPA/Ramsar and River Dee and Bala Lake SAC.
- The assessment should focus on the Project Contribution (PC) alongside existing background levels and cumulative effects, rather than relying solely on changes across the wider Stanlow Manufacturing Complex.
- The 1% critical load/critical level threshold should be applied consistently as the trigger for further assessment of designated sites. The presented methodology for determining significance is acceptable for the EIA – but not for protected site assessment, where the 1% threshold is the trigger for further assessment when it is breached alone, or in-combination.
- Assessment should include potential impacts from larger construction plant/non road mobile machinery, accidental releases of pollutants, emergency venting, and any ammonia or nitrogenous emissions.
- The air quality assessment should ensure that the baseline is robust and complete, including all relevant designated sites, supported by appropriate baseline monitoring, and that any discrepancies in background air quality and deposition data are resolved and clearly explained.
- No baseline monitoring is proposed in the direction of the Mersey Estuary SPA/Ramsar, approximately 0.7km to the north of the application. This is advised to support national baseline data, such as that on APIS.
- Confirmation is required on whether carbon capture technology or amines will be used, and if so, their contribution to nitrogen deposition should be included in the assessment

## **Noise**

- Natural England welcomes the proposed approach to monitoring baseline conditions and assessing operational and construction noise impacts from the development, but highlight monitoring locations should provide an accurate reflection of potential impacts on ecological receptors including features of designated sites or areas of functionally linked land.
- A detailed noise assessment should be provided, presenting baseline and predicted LAeq and LMax levels, including any overlapping construction activities to include the worst case scenario for the development alone and in-combination with other nearby developments. Particular consideration should be given to potential programme overlap between Phases 1 and 2 at the Stanlow Manufacturing Complex to ensure impacts are fully assessed.
- Natural England does not support reliance on arbitrary noise thresholds for ecological receptors and advises caution when assessing impacts solely on the basis of changes in dB, as even small increases in noise may affect sensitive species and habitats.

Please send any new consultations or further information on this consultation to [consultations@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:consultations@naturalengland.org.uk).

Yours sincerely,

  
Cheshire to Lancashire Area Sustainable Development Team  
Natural England

## **Annex A – Natural England Advice on EIA Scoping Requirements**

### **1. General Principles**

Regulation 11 of the Infrastructure Planning Regulations 2017 - (The EIA Regulations) sets out the information that should be included in an Environmental Statement (ES) to assess impacts on the natural environment. This includes:

- A description of the development – including physical characteristics and the full land use requirements of the site during construction and operational phases
- Appropriately scaled and referenced plans which clearly show the information and features associated with the development
- An assessment of alternatives and clear reasoning as to why the preferred option has been chosen
- A description of the aspects and matters requested to be scoped out of further assessment with adequate justification provided.
- Expected residues and emissions (water, air and soil pollution, noise, vibration, light, heat, radiation etc.) resulting from the operation of the proposed development
- A description of the aspects of the environment likely to be significantly affected by the development including biodiversity (for example fauna and flora), land, including land take, soil, water, air, climate (for example greenhouse gas emissions, impacts relevant to adaptation), cultural heritage and landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors
- A description of the likely significant effects of the development on the environment – this should cover direct effects but also any indirect, secondary, cumulative, short, medium, and long term, permanent and temporary, positive, and negative effects. Effects should relate to the existence of the development, the use of natural resources (in particular land, soil, water and biodiversity) and the emissions from pollutants. This should also include a description of the forecasting methods to predict the likely effects on the environment
- A description of the measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and where possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment
- An outline of the structure of the proposed ES

From the Scoping report provided, Natural England consider that these general principles will be appropriately addressed through the ES.

Paragraph 2.1.6 states that a degree of flexibility will be required for the proposal design, including the choice of technology. We acknowledge that a Rochdale envelope provides an appropriate pragmatic method but assessment must ensure a precautionary approach assuming worst-case scenarios for all the potential technologies. Several options may require assessment if there remains uncertainty as to the choice of process.

### **2. Cumulative and in-combination effects**

An impact assessment should identify, describe, and evaluate the effects that are likely to result from the project in combination with other projects and activities that are being, have been or will be carried out. The following types of projects should be included in such an assessment (subject to available information):

- a. existing completed projects;
- b. approved but uncompleted projects;
- c. ongoing activities;
- d. plans or projects for which an application has been made and which are under consideration by the consenting authorities; and
- e. plans and projects which are reasonably foreseeable, i.e. projects for which an application has not yet been submitted, but which are likely to progress before completion of the development and for which sufficient information is available to assess the likelihood of cumulative and in-combination effects.

Given the interdependencies of this project, both within the Stanlow Manufacturing Complex and the wider HyNet network, it will be important for a detailed assessment to consider the potential cumulative effects of this proposal. This includes all supporting infrastructure, with other similar proposals and a thorough assessment of the 'in combination' effects of the proposed development with any existing developments and current applications. In addition to planning registers and development plans, Natural England recommends that the Environment Agency permitting register is reviewed to identify relevant permits and permit variations. A full consideration of the implications of the whole scheme should be included in the ES.

### **3. Environmental data**

Natural England is required to make available information it holds where requested to do so. National datasets held by Natural England are available at <http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/publications/data/default.aspx>.

Detailed information on the natural environment is available at [www.magic.gov.uk](http://www.magic.gov.uk). This includes Marine Conservation Zone GIS shapefiles.

Natural England's SSSI Impact Risk Zones are a GIS dataset which can be used to help identify the potential for the development to impact on a SSSI. The dataset and user guidance can be accessed from the [Natural England Open Data Geoportal](#).

Natural England does not hold local information on local sites, local landscape character, priority habitats and species or protected species. Local environmental data should be obtained from the appropriate local bodies. This may include the local environmental records centre, the local wildlife trust, local geo-conservation group or other recording society.

### **4. Biodiversity and Geodiversity**

The assessment will need to include potential impacts of the proposal upon sites and features of nature conservation interest as well as opportunities for nature recovery through biodiversity net gain (BNG). There might also be strategic approaches to take into account.

Ecological Impact Assessment (EclA) is the process of identifying, quantifying, and evaluating the potential impacts of defined actions on ecosystems or their components. EclA may be carried out as part of the EIA process or to support other forms of environmental assessment or appraisal. [Guidelines](#) and an [EclA checklist](#) have been developed by the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM).

The [National Planning Policy Framework \(NPPF\)](#) sets out guidance on how to take account of biodiversity interests in planning decisions and the framework that the responsible authority should provide to assist developers. Further guidance is set out in Planning Practice Guidance on the [natural environment](#).

### **5. Designated nature conservation sites**

#### **5.1 International and European designated sites**

The ES should thoroughly assess the potential for the proposal to affect internationally designated sites of nature conservation importance / European sites, including marine sites where relevant. This includes Special Protection Areas (SPA), Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), listed Ramsar sites, candidate SAC and proposed SPA.

European site conservation objectives are available [here](#). An appropriate assessment will be required where a plan or project is likely to have a significant effect upon a European Site, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects.

Evidence Plans are a useful mechanism NSIP applicants can use to agree what information should be provided to the Planning Inspectorate and Natural England when undertaking HRA. Agreeing the evidence-needs of the project early prior to applying for Development Consent may help reduce delays in the process. More information on Evidence Plans is available [here](#).

Natural England notes that Table 7.4 in the Scoping Report sets out the Internationally Designated Sites within 10km of the proposal. Table 1 below lists the relevant internationally designated sites, linking their citation and conservation objectives, along with the primary impact pathways NE advise must be considered. It should be noted this table is not exhaustive, and a full review of potential impacts should be undertaken by the applicant.

| <b>Table 1: Potential risk to international designated sites</b>                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Site name                                                                                              | Potential impact pathways where further information/assessment is required                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <a href="#">Mersey Estuary Special Protection Area (SPA)</a> and <a href="#">Mersey Estuary Ramsar</a> | <p>The scoping boundary lies 0.7km (700m) south of the Mersey Estuary SPA and Mersey Estuary Ramsar designations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Temporary or permanent habitat loss and fragmentation from construction impacts, including offsite bird features</li> <li>• Noise, lighting and visual disturbance to SPA or Ramsar species during both construction and operation (inc. maintenance activity), including those within the designated areas and supporting habitats, including functionally linked land (FLL)</li> <li>• Loss or degradation of supporting habitats within the designated sites and surrounding FLL from emissions to air from construction plant, equipment and traffic including dust deposition</li> <li>• Loss or degradation of supporting habitats within the designated sites and surrounding FLL from emissions to air from operation of the development (including operational traffic, accidental releases, emergency venting or other chemicals used on site)</li> <li>• Loss or degradation of supporting habitats within the designated sites and surrounding FLL from releases to surface water from construction and operation (including sediment, accidental disturbance of contaminated land or other chemicals used on site)</li> <li>• Loss or degradation of supporting habitats within the designated sites and surrounding FLL from ground or surface water abstraction during construction or operation</li> </ul> |
| <a href="#">River Dee and Bala Lake SAC</a>                                                            | <p>The scoping boundary lies 8.6km north of the River Dee and Bala Lake SAC at its closest point.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Loss or degradation of features within the designated site from emissions to air from construction plant, equipment and traffic including dust deposition</li> <li>• Loss or degradation of features within the designated site from emissions to air from operation of the development (including operational traffic, accidental releases, emergency venting or other chemicals used on site)</li> <li>• Loss or degradation of features within the designated site from releases to surface water from construction and</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |

|  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|--|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  | operation (including sediment, accidental disturbance of contaminated land or other chemicals used on site) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Loss or degradation of features within the designated site from ground or surface water abstraction during construction or operation</li> </ul> |
|--|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

## 6. Nationally designated sites

Sites of Special Scientific Interest are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Further information on the SSSI and its special interest features can be found at [www.magic.gov.uk](http://www.magic.gov.uk).

Natural England's SSSI Impact Risk Zones can be used to help identify the potential for the development to impact on a SSSI. The dataset and user guidance can be accessed from the [Natural England Open Data Geoportal](#)

The development site is within or may impact on the following **Site of Special Scientific Interest**:

- Mersey Estuary SSSI

The ES should include a full assessment of the direct and indirect effects of the development on the features of special interest within Mersey Estuary SSSI and identify appropriate mitigation measures to avoid, minimise or reduce any adverse significant effects.

The consideration of likely significant effects should include any land outside the designated site. These areas may provide important habitat for mobile species populations that are interest features of the SSSI, for example birds. This can also include areas which have a critical function to a habitat feature within a site, for example by being linked through hydrology.

Further information on the features of the SSSI and some of the expected impact pathways from the Project are included in Table 2.

| <b>Table 2: Potential risks to nationally designated sites: the development is within or may impact on the following sites</b> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Site name with link to citation</b>                                                                                         | <b>Potential impact pathways where further information/assessment is required</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <a href="#">Mersey Estuary SSSI</a>                                                                                            | <p>The scoping boundary lies 0.7km (700m) south of the Mersey Estuary SSSI designation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Temporary or permanent habitat loss and fragmentation from construction impacts, including offsite bird features</li> <li>• Noise, lighting and visual disturbance to mobile species during both construction and operation (inc. maintenance activity), including those within the designated areas and surrounding land</li> <li>• Loss or degradation of supporting habitats within the designated sites and surrounding land from emissions to air from construction plant, equipment and traffic including dust deposition</li> <li>• Loss or degradation of supporting habitats within the designated sites and surrounding land from emissions to air from operation of the development (including operational traffic, accidental releases, emergency venting or other chemicals used on site)</li> <li>• Loss or degradation of supporting habitats within the designated sites and surrounding land from releases to surface water from construction and operation (including</li> </ul> |

| <b>Table 2: Potential risks to nationally designated sites:</b> the development is within or may impact on the following sites |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Site name with link to citation</b>                                                                                         | <b>Potential impact pathways where further information/assessment is required</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|                                                                                                                                | sediment, accidental disturbance of contaminated land or other chemicals used on site) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Loss or degradation of supporting habitats within the designated sites and surrounding land from ground or surface water abstraction during construction or operation</li> </ul> |

## 7. Regionally and Locally Important Sites

The ES should consider any impacts upon local wildlife and geological sites, including local nature reserves. Local Sites are identified by the local wildlife trust, geoconservation group or other local groups. The ES should set out proposals for mitigation of any impacts and if appropriate, compensation measures and opportunities for enhancement and improving connectivity with wider ecological networks.

Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS) are a new mandatory system of spatial strategies for nature established by the Environment Act 2021. The [Cheshire & Warrington LNRS](#) was published in November 2025 and identifies strategic priorities for nature protection, recovery, and enhancement. Given the size and scale of the project, there are opportunities not only for enhancing biodiversity in the locality, but also to create and enhance ecological connectivity in the area.

## 8. Protected Species

The conservation of species protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 is explained in Part IV and Annex A of Government Circular 06/2005 [Biodiversity and Geological Conservation: Statutory Obligations and their Impact within the Planning System](#).

Applicants should check to see if a mitigation licence is required using Natural England guidance on licensing [Natural England wildlife licences](#). Applicants can also make use of Natural England's charged service [Pre Submission Screening Service](#) for a review of a draft wildlife licence application. Natural England then reviews a full draft licence application to issue a Letter of No Impediment (LONI) which explains that based on the information reviewed to date, that it sees no impediment to a licence being granted in the future should the DCO be issued. This is done to give the Planning Inspectorate confidence to make a recommendation to the relevant Secretary of State in granting a DCO. See [Advice Note Eleven, Annex C – Natural England and the Planning Inspectorate | National Infrastructure Planning](#) for details of the LONI process.

The ES should assess the impact of all phases of the proposal on protected species (including, for example, great crested newts, reptiles, birds, water voles, badgers and bats). Natural England does not hold comprehensive information regarding the locations of species protected by law. Records of protected species should be obtained from appropriate local biological record centres, nature conservation organisations and local groups. Consideration should be given to the wider context of the site, for example in terms of habitat linkages and protected species populations in the wider area.

Natural England notes in section 7.6.1-7.6.8 and Table 7.3 details of the applicants desk study and field survey to date. The Scoping Report states that baseline ecological surveys are largely complete, although it is unclear whether any further species surveys may be required. Any remaining survey requirements or limitations should be clearly identified in the ES.

Natural England has adopted [standing advice](#) for protected species, which includes guidance on survey and mitigation measures. A separate protected species licence from Natural England or Defra may also be required.

## 9. Priority Habitats and Species

Priority Habitats and Species are of particular importance for nature conservation and included in the England Biodiversity List published under section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006. Most priority habitats will be mapped either as Sites of Special Scientific Interest, on the Magic website or as Local Wildlife Sites. Lists of priority habitats and species can be found [here](#). Natural England does not routinely hold species data. Such data should be collected when impacts on priority habitats or species are considered likely.

Consideration should also be given to the potential environmental value of brownfield sites, often found in urban areas and former industrial land. Sites can be checked against the (draft) national Open Mosaic Habitat (OMH) inventory published by Natural England and freely available to [download](#). Further information is also available [here](#).

An appropriate level habitat survey should be carried out on the site, to identify any important habitats present. In addition, ornithological, botanical, and invertebrate surveys should be carried out at appropriate times in the year, to establish whether any scarce or priority species are present.

The ES should include details of:

- Any historical data for the site affected by the proposal (e.g. from previous surveys)
- Additional surveys carried out as part of this proposal
- The habitats and species present
- The status of these habitats and species (e.g. whether priority species or habitat)
- The direct and indirect effects of the development upon those habitats and species
- Full details of any mitigation or compensation measures
- Opportunities for biodiversity net gain or other environmental enhancement

## 10. Biodiversity Net Gain

The Environment Act 2021 includes NSIPs in the requirement for BNG, with the biodiversity gain objective for NSIPs defined as at least a 10% increase in the pre-development biodiversity value of the on-site habitat. It is the intention that BNG should apply to all terrestrial NSIPs which apply for a development consent order on or after 2 November 2026.

Section 3.3.47 of the Scoping Report outlines the approach to BNG assessment and Chapter 7.5 sets out the boundary for BNG within the project. Natural England welcomes the commitment to complete additional surveys to inform the design and implementation of Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) for this development.

BNG outcomes can be achieved on site, off-site or through a combination of both. On-site provision should be considered first. Delivery should create or enhance habitats of equal or higher value. When delivering net gain, opportunities should be sought to link delivery to relevant plans or strategies e.g. Green Infrastructure Strategies or Local Nature Recovery Strategies.

The biodiversity baseline should include all land contained within the site's red line boundary and proposals can be iteratively refined over time and throughout detailed design. We encourage developers to:

- develop their BNG proposals in adherence with well-established BNG principles
- use the latest version of the Defra biodiversity metric, adhering to the metric guidance.

Biodiversity gains should ideally be secured for a minimum of 30 years and be subject to adaptive management and monitoring. BNG plans should be secured by a suitably worded requirement in the DCO.

## 11. Landscape and visual impacts

The environmental assessment should refer to the relevant [National Character Areas](#). Character

area profiles set out descriptions of each landscape area and statements of environmental opportunity.

A landscape and visual impact assessment should also be carried out for the proposed development and surrounding area. Natural England recommends use of the methodology set out in *Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment 2013* ((3rd edition) produced by the Landscape Institute and the Institute of Environmental Assessment and Management.

The assessment should also include the cumulative effect of the development with other relevant existing or proposed developments in the area. This should include an assessment of the impacts of other proposals currently at scoping stage.

The National Infrastructure Commission has also produced [Design Principles for National Infrastructure - NIC](#) endorsed by Government in the National Infrastructure Strategy.

## **12. Connecting People with nature**

Measures to help people to better access the countryside for quiet enjoyment and opportunities to connect with nature should be considered. Such measures could include reinstating existing footpaths or the creation of new footpaths, cycleways, and bridleways. Links to other green networks and, where appropriate, urban fringe areas should also be explored to help promote the creation of wider green infrastructure. Access to nature within the development site should also be considered, including the role that natural links have in connecting habitats and providing potential pathways for movements of species.

Relevant aspects of local authority green infrastructure strategies should be incorporated where appropriate.

## **13. Soils**

Soils are a valuable, finite natural resource and should also be considered for the ecosystem services they provide, including for food production, water storage and flood mitigation, as a carbon store, reservoir of biodiversity and buffer against pollution. It is therefore important that the soil resources are protected and sustainably managed.

The following issues should be considered and, where appropriate, included as part of the Environmental Statement (ES):

- The degree to which soils would be disturbed or damaged as part of the development
- The ES should set out details of how any adverse impacts on soils can be avoided or minimised and demonstrate how soils will be sustainably used and managed, including consideration in site design and master planning, and areas for green infrastructure or biodiversity net gain. The aim will be to minimise soil handling and maximise the sustainable use and management of the available soil to achieve successful after-uses and minimise off-site impacts.

Further information is available in the [Defra Construction Code of Practice for the Sustainable Use of Soil on Development Sites](#) and The British Society of Soil Science Guidance Note [Benefitting from Soil Management in Development and Construction](#).

## **14. Air Quality**

### **14.1 Approach to Air Quality Assessment**

Natural England has been engaging with the applicant in pre-application discretionary advice (DAS) on air quality and provides the following detailed advice on the approach to assessment presented within the Scoping Report.

Overall the proposals for the AQ assessment are acceptable. The assessment indicates it will cover construction (dust, plant and traffic impacts) and operational impacts. The sources identified are all considered relevant and we agree they should be included:

- **Construction dust** -the 250m screening distance is appropriate per IAQM guidance
- **Construction vehicles** – The affected road network has not been presented in sufficient detail to determine whether designated sites occur within 200 m of affected road links. The assessment should therefore include any road links where traffic emissions could contribute 1% or more of a relevant critical level or critical load, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects.
- **Operational plant** – the screening distances used for protected sites are appropriate
- Natural England agrees that the proposed pollutants for assessment are generally appropriate, including NO<sub>x</sub>, SO<sub>2</sub>, PM<sub>10</sub>, NH<sub>3</sub>, nitrogen deposition and acid deposition. The applicant should confirm whether carbon capture technologies involving amines will be used and, if so, assess any associated contribution to nitrogen deposition.
- The use of maximum permitted emission concentrations as the basis for modelling is supported as a precautionary approach. Separate assessment of the proposed fuel scenarios is also supported to identify the reasonable worst case.

#### **14.2 Matters Scoped Out of Assessment**

Natural England recommends that impacts from construction plant and non-road mobile machinery are not scoped out. While such effects are likely to be localised and temporary, emissions from larger plant, including generators, may extend over a wider area. The assessment should also consider potential overlap between Phase 1 and Phase 2 construction activities.

The exclusion of operational traffic impacts may be appropriate provided it can be demonstrated that no designated sites occur within 200 m of affected road links.

#### **14.3 Accidental Releases**

The assessment should consider potential air quality impacts arising from accidental releases of pollutants, including maintenance or emergency venting and the accidental release of ammonia or other nitrogen-containing substances. Any potential effects on designated sites should be assessed.

#### **14.4 Baseline Conditions**

The baseline description should be reviewed to ensure all Air Quality Management Areas within the study area are included. Liverpool City AQMA appears to fall within the study area but has not been identified.

Additional baseline monitoring in the vicinity of the Mersey Estuary designated sites is recommended to supplement national datasets and provide site-specific baseline information.

The Mersey Estuary designated sites and the River Dee and Bala Lake SAC appear to be the principal ecological receptors within the proposed screening distances and should form the focus of the assessment.

The pollutant concentrations and deposition values presented in Table 5.4 do not appear consistent with APIS data. These discrepancies should be clarified and corrected where necessary. In addition, the nitrogen deposition and critical load columns should be reviewed.

#### **14.5 Critical Loads and Critical Levels**

The assessment should provide clear justification for the critical loads and critical levels applied, including identification of the relevant qualifying features.

In particular, the assessment should demonstrate that the ammonia critical levels selected are appropriate for the qualifying features present and should clearly justify the nitrogen and acid deposition critical loads applied.

Natural England notes the existing exceedance of nitrogen critical loads at relevant designated sites. Particular consideration should be given to the woodland feature of the River Dee and Bala Lake SAC and any features potentially subject to lower ammonia critical levels.

#### **14.6 Assessment Methodology and Presentation of Results**

The assessment should clearly distinguish between emissions from the wider Stanlow Manufacturing Complex and the process contribution from the Proposed Development itself. The process contribution, considered both alone and in combination with other plans and projects, should form the basis of screening and assessment for designated sites.

For Habitats Regulations Assessment purposes, conclusions should be based on the conservation objectives and qualifying features of affected sites and not solely on modelled pollutant concentrations or deposition rates.

Natural England welcomes the proposed presentation of results through both contour plots and tabulated outputs.

While the proposed significance criteria are acceptable for EIA purposes, the assessment of designated sites should apply the recognised 1% critical level or critical load screening threshold. Where this threshold is exceeded, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects, further assessment should be undertaken.

To improve transparency, Natural England recommends that any air quality information relied on for ecological assessment of impacts on designated sites or their features is summarised within the Biodiversity Chapter.

#### **14.7 Mitigation**

For Habitats Regulations Assessment purposes, reliance should be placed only on measures that are integral to the project design or otherwise secured with sufficient certainty. Measures described as being implemented "if required" or "where appropriate" should be supported by clear trigger criteria, monitoring requirements and defined remedial actions.

The proposed embedded mitigation measures, including stack height optimisation, selective catalytic reduction technology and compliance with Environmental Permit requirements, are supported provided they are based on a reasonable worst-case design scenario.

It should be recognised that the Environmental Permit regime will not address all air quality impacts associated with the Proposed Development, including those arising from construction activities, traffic and waste management.

#### **14.8 In Combination Assessment**

The Environmental Statement should clearly identify the plans and projects included within the in-combination assessment and explain the assumptions applied to future traffic growth and background emissions.

#### **14.9 Interrelationship with Other Environmental Topics**

The ES should also explain how waste management activities will avoid or minimise atmospheric emissions that could affect designated sites.

The Transport Chapter should demonstrate that affected road links have been identified using appropriate ecological screening criteria, including consideration of whether traffic emissions could contribute 1% or more of a relevant critical level or critical load.

The Major Accidents and Disasters assessment should consider the potential effects of accidental atmospheric releases, including ammonia and other chemicals, on designated ecological receptors.

## **15. Noise**

Natural England notes the approach to scoping of noise and vibration within Chapter 6 the EIA for the development and welcomes the intention to undertake a detailed noise assessment comparing baseline to predicted noise levels.

The assessment should provide a detailed assessment of the predicted noise profile from construction and operational phases as both LAeq and LMax levels, including any overlapping construction activities. Particular consideration should be given to potential programme overlap between Phases 1 and 2 at the Stanlow Manufacturing Complex to ensure impacts are fully assessed.

Monitoring locations for baseline and predicted noise levels should reflect potential ecological receptors in the vicinity of the development site accurately.

In Table 6.5 of the Scoping Report Construction noise impact thresholds are presented to show where there could be a significant adverse effect as a result of the level of construction noise. Natural England does not support reliance on arbitrary noise thresholds for ecological receptors and advises caution when assessing noise impacts, as even small increases in dB may affect sensitive species.

## **16. Climate Change**

The ES should identify how the development affects the ability of the natural environment (including habitats, species, and natural processes) to adapt to climate change, including its ability to provide adaptation for people. This should include impacts on the vulnerability or resilience of a natural feature (i.e. what's already there and affected) as well as impacts on how the environment can accommodate change for both nature and people, for example whether the development affects species ability to move and adapt. Nature-based solutions, such as providing green infrastructure on-site and in the surrounding area (e.g. to adapt to flooding, drought and heatwave events), habitat creation and peatland restoration, should be considered. The ES should set out the measures that will be adopted to address impacts.

Further information is available from the [Committee on Climate Change's \(CCC\) Independent Assessment of UK Climate Risk](#), the [National Adaptation Programme \(NAP\)](#), the [Climate Change Impacts Report Cards](#) (biodiversity, infrastructure, water etc.) and the [UKCP18 climate projections](#).

In Section 4.2.5 of the Scoping Report it is noted that it is considered that the proposal is of low vulnerability to climate change and it is scoped out of assessment. Natural England would seek clarity on this within the ES given that the production of hydrogen within the development is reliant on a water supply which may be vulnerable to the pressures of climate change.

## Annex B - Standard Advice for Air Quality Impacts in National Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs)

Natural England provides the following standard advice on air pollution. This advice relates to the protection of protected sites under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (the Habitats Regulations) and the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and should be taken as Natural England's formal representation. This standard advice is applicable to all stages of the NSIP process and may be used by the applicant for NSIP pre application stages, by the Examining Authority (ExA) during the statutory stages of the NSIP and by the relevant Secretary of State as the competent authority. This standard advice may also be used for Hybrid Bills.

Protected sites are 'sites of special scientific interest' (SSSIs) and 'habitats sites' (also called 'European sites'). For the purposes of this advice, Habitats Sites are Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), possible SACs, Special Protection Areas (SPAs), Potential SPAs, Ramsar sites, and sites identified, or required, as compensatory measures for adverse effects on Habitats Sites. Although their regulatory frameworks differ, the general principles and approach for air pollution assessment outlined for Habitats Sites are also relevant for SSSIs. Where the following advice applies to both, we use the term protected sites. Where the advice or approach differs, the individual terms are used.

This includes advice on information that is required to assess this and how to interpret the results of air quality modelling for the decision maker to conclude whether air quality impacts would have an adverse effect on the integrity of a Habitat site or a SSSI. You should also consider any relevant caselaw that could affect how you carry out any air quality assessments.

### Air pollutants

This advice covers the following air pollutants from the construction, operation and decommissioning phases of a proposal

- ammonia (NH<sub>3</sub>)
- nitrogen oxides (NO, NO<sub>2</sub> or NO<sub>x</sub>)
- nitrogen deposition
- acid deposition
- sulphur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>)

Standing advice on air pollution and development is also available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/air-pollution-and-development-advice-for-local-authorities>

Whilst the standing advice does not cover NSIPs, it does include additional technical advice which may prove useful. However, in summary, Table 1 provides the steps that we advise should be taken to assess air quality impacts on protected sites. The applicant should provide their own assessment containing the information and detailed modelling you need. You need to review this and make your own conclusion.

**Table 1: Sequential approach to air quality assessments**

| Stage                                            | Step                                                                                                                                       | Supplemental evidence/ basis for judgment                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|--------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Initial screening for credible risk of an effect | 1<br>Check Distance criteria - could significant emissions reach a protected site?<br>Yes = move to Step 2<br>No = no further HRA required | The <a href="#">Air Pollution Information System</a> (APIS) includes an introduction to air pollution.<br><br>APIS provides site specific information on the interest features of individual protected sites and the sensitivity to air quality impacts of those features. |

|                                      |           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                      |           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | <p>Please see Table 2 for industrial air pollution screening distances.</p> <p>For road traffic impacts, roads on the affected road network that lie within 200m of a designated site should be considered.</p> <p>Use <a href="#">Magic Map</a> to check the location of designated sites. Search for the location then select the 'Designations' option.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|                                      | <b>2</b>  | <p>Check if the qualifying habitats or supporting habitat of qualifying species are sensitive to air quality impacts.</p> <p>Yes = move to Step 3<br/>No = no further HRA required</p> <p>APIS Site relevant Critical Loads and Levels (based on literature and professional judgement)<br/><a href="http://www.apis.ac.uk/srccl">http://www.apis.ac.uk/srccl</a></p> <p>Some habitats may not have a critical load because there is not enough data. In these cases, you should find the critical load for a similar habitat type or feature.</p> | <p>The qualifying features of Habitats Sites can be identified in the relevant Site Conservation Objectives and Supplementary advice packages, which include a definitive list of legally qualifying features. These objectives are available <a href="#">here</a>.</p> <p>Alternatively, a list of qualifying features can also be found by searching for the Habitats Site and SSSIs on <a href="#">Designated Sites View</a>, alongside Conservation Objectives and Supplementary Advice for Habitats Sites.</p> <p>The above links will also show whether any of the qualifying features for Habitats Sites have a Restore or Maintain Conservation Objective in relation to air quality thresholds (critical levels or loads).</p> <p>If the site is a SPA or an SAC/SSSI designated for an animal species (as opposed to a habitat), determine whether the predicted pollution effects on the supporting habitat will have a negative effect on the notified species.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Detailed AQ modelling</b>         | <b>3</b>  | <p>Undertake detailed modelling using a recognised dispersal model – i.e. Atmospheric Dispersion Modelling System (ADMS)</p> <p>Unless robust site-specific evidence is provided, we advise the lower range of the critical load should be used in modelling. If there are site specific reasons why it is more appropriate to use the higher end of the range, then this should be clearly evidenced.</p>                                                                                                                                         | <p>Air Quality modelling should include relevant scenarios that are clearly identified.</p> <p>One such example of scenarios is a baseline plus future forecasts as follows:<br/>Baseline, a construction year, and future operational year(s), do nothing (without proposal), do something (with proposal); taking into account background trends for each pollutant).</p> <p>For proposals that will emit pollutants from a point source, it is helpful to provide isopleths of the dispersion modelling results, showing the predicted contours of pollutant concentration and deposition of the development. These may be assessed against the locations of protected sites and sensitive features within those sites.</p> <p>At least 3 years of meteorological data should be included within the AQ modelling for sources other than for road transport modelling</p> <p>The Institute of Air Quality Management (IAQM) has produced the following document to assist its members in the assessment of the air quality impacts of development on designated nature conservation sites: <a href="#">air-quality-impacts-on-nature-sites-2020.pdf</a></p> |
| <b>Applying screening thresholds</b> | <b>4a</b> | <p>Apply Screening Threshold Alone</p> <p>If below threshold alone, move to step 4b.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | <p>Ascertain the Process Contribution (PC) from the plan or project (emissions and predicted deposition). Apply Screening threshold (1% of</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |

|                                                       |           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|-------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                       |           | <p>If above = move straight to step 5</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | <p>critical level or load) alone using the <u>annual averages</u>.</p> <p>If the process contribution is less than 1% of the relevant long-term benchmark (Environmental Assessment Level, Critical Level or Critical Load), the emission is not likely to have a significant effect <u>alone</u> irrespective of the background levels.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|                                                       | <b>4b</b> | <p>Apply Screening Threshold In-combination.</p> <p>If below threshold in-combination = no LSE/significant risk of damage etc and no further assessment required.</p> <p>If above = move straight to step 5</p> <p>Applicants might use the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) 'decision-making thresholds' as a reason for not completing an in-combination assessment.</p> <p>If so, you should check they have correctly followed the JNCC guidance on decision-making thresholds. If this guidance shows they do not need to complete an in-combination assessment, continue to step 5.</p> <p>If applicants have not used the decision-making thresholds, or have not followed them correctly, they will need to provide an in-combination assessment.</p> | <p>Use information from competent authorities (Planning Portal, PINS NSIP register or Environmental Permitting register) to determine if there are plans or projects in the pipeline (not included in the current baseline) that should be considered in-combination</p> <p>If the combined process contribution is less than 1% of the relevant long-term benchmark (Environmental Assessment Level, Critical Level or Critical Load), the emission is not likely to have a significant effect <u>in-combination</u> irrespective of background levels.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Detailed Assessment of ecological impacts</b>      | <b>5</b>  | <p>This step is to consider the ecological impacts of AQ on the interest features of the designated site and is not based only on numerical figures.</p> <p>If it is not certain whether sensitive features are located within the areas to be impacted, a site visit may be helpful to determine this.</p> <p>For SSSIs, this step should provide all the information necessary, including any required mitigation, for the decision maker to determine if there would be an adverse effect on a SSSI.</p> <p>If Habitats Sites are impacted by the proposals, move to Step 6.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                     | <p>The following information is likely to be helpful for the decision maker:</p> <p>Is the sensitive feature(s) located within the pollution footprint? Should it be there for the site to meet its Conservation Objectives or is there some other, natural reason (e.g. hydrology), why the sensitive feature(s) would not be expected to occur there?</p> <p>Check APIS Trends Tab for reasonable expectation on whether background pollution may be decreasing or not.</p> <p>Habitats that have already been subject to high background nitrogen deposition can develop tolerance to further deposition. This cannot be used to justify further exceedance as it would undermine conservation objectives to reverse decline. You should consider predicted effects on the species richness of a habitat against the site's conservation objectives.</p> |
| <b>Appropriate Assessment (AA) for habitats sites</b> | <b>6</b>  | <p>The competent authority to undertake their AA to conclude whether or not there will be an adverse effect on integrity (AEOI) of habitats sites. Any mitigation proposed should also be assessed at this point.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <p>Where mitigation is required to enable a conclusion of no adverse effect on integrity to be reached the AA must be able to show that mitigation measures can be relied upon to avoid adverse effects over the full lifetime of the project (ie construction, operation and decommissioning where relevant). To be viable, such measures</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |

|  |  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|--|--|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  |  | <p>Should the AA conclude that the proposal would have an AEOI that cannot be excluded with mitigation measures, consider the derogation route of the HRA process.</p> <p>Should compensation measures be required under derogation, please contact Natural England for specific advice.</p> <p>Note: If an AA has been undertaken of the proposals <u>alone</u> and concluded that there will not be an adverse effect on integrity, if there are residual impacts that are not fully mitigated, these will need to be considered in combination with other plans or projects</p> | <p>should be <b>effective, reliable, timely, guaranteed</b> and of <b>sufficient duration</b>. The assessment of such measures should be supported by evidence.</p> <p>When deciding on whether the proposals set out in the NSIP will have an adverse effect on Integrity on a Habitats Site, the Conservation Objectives and any supplementary advice should be taken into account. Including whether the site is already exceeding the environmental thresholds for ammonia, nitrogen oxides and nitrogen deposition and has a restore conservation objective.</p> |
|--|--|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

## Mitigation measures

If you cannot conclude there is no adverse effect, the applicant will need to apply mitigation measures. Measures will only be appropriate if you can quantify their effectiveness in reducing emissions on the protected site. You should check that mitigation measures are in place to avoid adverse effects on site integrity over the lifetime of the project.

Mitigation may include measures that:

- the applicant volunteers
- you impose through formal conditions or restrictions in any permission or authorisation – these may be different or stricter measures than ones proposed by the applicant

Examples could include:

- relocation or redesign of developments to avoid impacts on protected sites
- control of other emissions of the same pollutants with an overlapping effect
- a change in stack height for industrial processes
- Euro 6 standards for construction machinery
- adding wooded shelterbelts, trees, green walls and hedges to limit dispersal of emissions, as long as these measures in themselves would not negatively impact the protected site

**Table 2: Industrial air pollution screening distances**

| Emission source                                              | Distance for SSSIs | Distance for habitats sites |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| Industrial developments                                      | 2km                | 5km                         |
| General combustion processes (under 500m 20MW energy input)  |                    | 500m                        |
| General combustion processes (20MW 2km to 50MW energy input) |                    | 2km                         |
| General combustion processes (over 50MW energy input)        | 2km                | 10km                        |
| Mechanical and biological waste treatment                    | 500m               | 500m                        |
| Landfill waste                                               | 2km                | 2km                         |

|                                                                             |      |      |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|------|
| <b>Compost (under 500 tonnes maximum annual operational throughput)</b>     | 500m | 500m |
| <b>Compost (500 to 75,000 tonnes maximum annual operational throughput)</b> | 1km  | 1km  |
| <b>Compost (over 75,000 tonnes maximum annual operational throughput)</b>   | 2km  | 2km  |
| <b>Airports, helipads and other aviation proposals</b>                      | 5km  | 5km  |
| <b>Oil and gas exploration and extraction</b>                               | 500m | 500m |
| <b>Quarries</b>                                                             | 200m | 200m |
| <b>Other industrial developments causing air pollution</b>                  | 500m | 500m |

### **Additional advice**

Common Standards Monitoring<sup>1</sup> is used to define the ecological condition of a protected site. It is undertaken on a broader level and does not currently consider air quality impacts. The relevant benchmark for assessing impacts is the critical thresholds. Therefore, the existing status of a designated site should not be the sole reason for judgement on potential impact.

For many protected sites, the current background pollution may already be exceeding the relevant critical load/level from a different source type to the project being assessed (e.g. where the main source of background exceedance is due to agriculture, but the proposal is an industrial project). Proposals must consider their own impacts against the relevant environmental thresholds. There are many reasons why background levels are high, but the conservation objective is to 'maintain or restore' air pollutants to within these benchmarks. The objective would be undermined by proposals that add further emissions, including if it compromises any strategic initiatives to reduce air pollution levels.

You must determine if there is evidence that the increased emissions represent a measurable risk and could compromise the strategic initiatives. You would need to consider information on:

- the extent to which any declining national trends in air pollution, or strategic initiatives to tackle emissions affecting the site more locally, might otherwise lead to improvements
- the rate at which such improvements are anticipated
- the extent of the impacts of a plan or project, and whether those impacts can properly be considered temporary and reversible

If the affected area is small, consider the risk to site integrity proportionally. For example, how important is the area in terms of rarity, location, distribution, vulnerability to change and ecological structure. If it is a supporting habitat, consider its importance to the designated species on the site. Consider any site survey information that may provide evidence of existing impacts.

### **Emissions from road transport (if applicable):**

Emissions from road transport may be an operational impact or be limited to the construction phase of proposals. Roads on the affected road network that lie within 200m of a designated site should be considered. If all affected roads are further than 200m from a protected site, then there is no likely significant effect (habitats sites) or no impact (SSSIs) on protected sites from air pollution

<sup>1</sup> HYPERLINK "<https://jncc.gov.uk/our-work/common-standards-monitoring/>" [Common Standards Monitoring | JNCC - Adviser to Government on Nature Conservation](#)

Improvements in vehicle technology and a move to further electrification of the vehicle fleet will, over time, result in lower background levels of nitrogen deposition and nitrogen oxide pollution near to roads. As most sites are currently over the relevant thresholds and have a “restore” objective, this should be noted as a “retardation” of the restore objective and expressed in months and years. Retardation of less than one year is acceptable as air quality is considered against an annual average. Please note that ammonia impacts cannot be assessed in this manner as there is no certainty of a declining trend.

### **Defra Emissions Factor Toolkit**

The Defra Emission Factor Toolkit (EFT) allows for gradual introduction of electric vehicles into the fleet (cars and LGVs) up to 2050. These are the emission factors we advise that NSIPs should be using (which we advise should also consider ammonia emissions as well as NO<sub>x</sub> – using one of three sets of emission factors available). However, the User Guide to the EFT highlights that calculation tools only support assessment years up to a certain date (2040 in the current version), reflecting that predictions and assumptions beyond then become less certain. Where EFT calculated emissions are to be used after this date to inform air quality assessments, the EFT indicates that appropriate caveats around the limitations of the analysis must be included to accompany the assessment. We therefore advise that emission factors no later than 2040 are used for HRAs – which would mean percentages of EVs are at predicted 2040 levels. A key concern is that, although EVs themselves have no tailpipe emissions, and the percentage of them will increase, the remaining combustion engine vehicles on the road may become more polluting as they age as selective catalytic reduction technology may create ‘ammonia slip’ over time. Ammonia slip is the unreacted ammonia (NH<sub>3</sub>) that escapes from a selective catalytic reduction (SCR) or selective non-catalytic reduction (SNCR) system used to reduce NO<sub>x</sub> in exhaust gases. Please note that the current EFT should be used and the noted date may change over time.

### **Motorways within the affected road network**

Please note the following paragraph relates to NSIP proposals where air quality impacts are being considered as a result of increased traffic only. This approach is not appropriate for proposals that would alter the strategic road network.

There is potentially an added complexity to the need for in-combination assessments when considering traffic on motorways, as including these roads can mean that the assessment takes account of traffic growth related to strategic factors or long range (external) trips that are independent of the specific plan or project and neighbouring plans or projects. These roads are strategically important and tend to have high volumes of traffic as well as being well represented in traffic models. The air quality assessment should therefore include traffic flows on these roads, but the external trips can be excluded from the initial screening assessment. A justification and explanation of which journeys are included and excluded in the traffic model should be provided.

The conclusions reached on the air pollution impacts of the HRA must be incorporated into the wider HRA conclusions for other impact pathways identified for the proposals.

### **How to Use this Advice in Decision Making**

Provided you have followed the above advice and have been able to conclude there would be no adverse effects on any protected sites we would be able to agree with your decision to authorise the project

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]@networkrail.co.uk> on behalf of Town Planning NWC  
<TownPlanningNWC@networkrail.co.uk>  
**Sent:** 04 September 2026 10:56  
**To:** Stanlow Hydrogen and CHP  
**Subject:** Planning Inspector EN0110007 Stanlow Hydrogen Ready Modular CHPP - EIA  
Scoping Network Rail initial comments  
**Attachments:** Stanlow Hydrogen and CHP\_Letter to stat cons\_Scoping & Reg 11 Notification.pdf;  
dev Asset-Protection-Initial-Enquiry-Questionnaire-Rev-1.1.docx  
**Categories:** EST

OFFICIAL

FAO [REDACTED]

Network Rail (NR) are submitting an initial comment on this proposal – it will require an interface with NR so could you in the first instance issue the attached development form to the applicant / their reps, have them fill it in & submit directly to [AssetProtectionNorthWest@networkrail.co.uk](mailto:AssetProtectionNorthWest@networkrail.co.uk) – an initial submission and review are free of charge. However, given the requirement for an interface there will be fees payable to NR from the applicant/reps along with a formal interface via a basic/asset protection agreement. The fees will be determined by NR asset protection. Once the formal interface has been set up an interface manager will be assigned to the proposal.



From

**RTPI Tech**  
**Town Planning Technician NWC**  
**Network Rail Property (NW&C)**  
**Square One, 4 Travis Street, Manchester M1 2NY**  
Email address for all applications and notifications: [TownPlanningNWC@networkrail.co.uk](mailto:TownPlanningNWC@networkrail.co.uk)

# Asset Protection Initial Enquiry Questionnaire

- This form covers all types of works; please complete the sections relevant to you
- If you are unsure of the answer to any question, please leave blank except for mandatory fields
- For any tender enquiries, please ask the proposer of the works to complete this questionnaire

*Please note: works should not commence, and no access is permitted onto Network Rail land until confirmation is received from the Network Rail Construction Manager.*

Date: DD/MM/YY

Asset Protection Reference No. (if known) [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>PROPOSER (Client) OF THE WORKS</b> (mandatory)<br>Company Name: <a href="#">Click or tap here to enter text.</a><br>Contact Name: <a href="#">Click or tap here to enter text.</a><br>Address: <a href="#">Click or tap here to enter text.</a><br>Post Code: <a href="#">Click or tap here to enter text.</a><br>Telephone: <a href="#">Click or tap here to enter text.</a><br>Email: <a href="#">Click or tap here to enter text.</a>                                                 | <b>YOUR CONTACT DETAILS</b> (if different)<br>Company Name: <a href="#">Click or tap here to enter text.</a><br>Contact Name: <a href="#">Click or tap here to enter text.</a><br>Telephone: <a href="#">Click or tap here to enter text.</a><br>Email: <a href="#">Click or tap here to enter text.</a><br>Role within Project: <a href="#">Click or tap here to enter text.</a> |
| <b>LOCATION OF WORKS</b> (mandatory)<br>Street name & house number/name: <a href="#">Click or tap here to enter text.</a><br>Town/Village: <a href="#">Click or tap here to enter text.</a><br>County: <a href="#">Click or tap here to enter text.</a><br>Post Code: <a href="#">Click or tap here to enter text.</a><br>Grid Reference - XY Eastings / Northings: <a href="#">Click or tap here to enter text.</a><br><i>If unsure please use a suitable online grid reference finder</i> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Additional location information: <a href="#">Click or tap here to enter text.</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Aspirational date of commencement on site: (mandatory) DD/MM/YY                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Anticipated duration: <a href="#">Click or tap here to enter text.</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Please give a brief description of your works: (mandatory) <a href="#">Click or tap here to enter text.</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |

## ACCESS AND MINOR WORKS

|                                                                                              |                              |                             |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Do you require access to Network Rail land?                                                  | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Do your works include tree felling/pruning or vegetation management adjacent to the railway? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |

## ARE YOU WORKING FOR A UTILITY PROVIDER OR HIGHWAYS DEPT? (Skip this section if not required)

|                                                                                                                                                               |                              |                             |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Are you undertaking utility/road works within the public highway covered under NRSWA?                                                                         | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Are you undertaking utility/road works as part of a new development (not NRSWA)?                                                                              | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Please provide NRSWA reference number: <a href="#">Click or tap here to enter text.</a>                                                                       |                              |                             |
| <b>Do your works involve:</b>                                                                                                                                 |                              |                             |
| electricity?                                                                                                                                                  | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| gas?                                                                                                                                                          | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| pumped water, gravity drain or sewerage?                                                                                                                      | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| telecoms?                                                                                                                                                     | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Other? (e.g. oil pipeline)                                                                                                                                    | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Highway maintenance/improvements/potholes?                                                                                                                    | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <b>Are your works:</b>                                                                                                                                        |                              |                             |
| within 200m of a level crossing?                                                                                                                              | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| on overhead lines near/crossing the railway?                                                                                                                  | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| on a bridge over the railway?                                                                                                                                 | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| under a bridge carrying the railway?                                                                                                                          | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <i>Please attach your traffic management plan</i>                                                                                                             |                              |                             |
| <i>If you need to inform Network Rail of a power outage, please contact: <a href="mailto:PowerOutage@networkrail.co.uk">PowerOutage@networkrail.co.uk</a></i> |                              |                             |

## PLANNING AND CONSENTS (Skip this section if not required)

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                              |                             |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Please confirm whether there are any Network Rail Wayleaves, Easements, or Licences that relate to the site?<br>If not, and you require one, please contact the Property Services team for your area.<br>If you are a Statutory supplier, proposing works in relation to utilities and services, please contact: <a href="mailto:Easements&amp;wayleaves@networkrail.co.uk">Easements&amp;wayleaves@networkrail.co.uk</a> . | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Please confirm if you have applied to a Local Authority for planning permission                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Provide details of planning application – name of authority, reference number and date approval granted, if applicable: <a href="#">Click or tap here to enter text.</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                              |                             |
| Is there a Development Consent Order, Compulsory Purchase order (DCO/CPO) associated with these works?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Provide DCO/CPO details: <a href="#">Click or tap here to enter text.</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                              |                             |
| Is any part of the site on former railway land or are there any Restrictive Covenants in favour of Network Rail, Railtrack or British Railway Board in relation to this site?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <i>If you require a Network Rail buried services search, please email <a href="mailto:OPBuriedServicesEnquiries@networkrail.co.uk">OPBuriedServicesEnquiries@networkrail.co.uk</a></i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                              |                             |

# **BUILDING AND MAINTENANCE WORKS, USE OF CRANES & MOBILE PLANT** (Skip this section if not required)

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                              |                             |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Are you using a crane or mobile plant?                                                                                                                                                                                   | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| If yes, please specify type e.g. MEWP, mobile crane etc: <a href="#">Click or tap here to enter text.</a>                                                                                                                |                              |                             |
| Are you constructing a building/development adjacent or carrying out repairs/maintenance/alterations?<br>Please specify type of foundations or ground remediation details in 'additional information' section at the end | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Do your works include scaffolding or working at height?<br>If yes, please give details in 'additional information' section at the end                                                                                    | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Are you demolishing existing buildings?                                                                                                                                                                                  | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Are your works near a railway tunnel?                                                                                                                                                                                    | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| If yes, please provide the tunnel name if you know it: <a href="#">Click or tap here to enter text.</a>                                                                                                                  |                              |                             |

## **WORKS AFFECTING NETWORK RAIL ASSETS**

|                                                                                                       |                              |                             |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>Do your works involve any of the following:</b>                                                    |                              |                             |
| Construction of a new bridge over/under the railway                                                   | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Demolition / alteration/ maintenance of a bridge structure                                            | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Bridge Inspection                                                                                     | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Installation of a new under track crossing for new pipes / cables / ducts across the railway corridor | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Renewal or laying of additional pipes / cables / ducts in an existing route                           | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Railway overhead electrification lines                                                                | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| A Flood defence scheme?                                                                               | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Excavations on or near NR property                                                                    | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Drainage on or near NR property                                                                       | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Ground investigations on or near NR property                                                          | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Erection of telecoms masts & interference analysis                                                    | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Works at stations                                                                                     | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Fencing and boundary works                                                                            | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |

## MAPS, DRAWINGS & PLANS

Please attach location maps plus any general Arrangement, Elevations, Drainage, Foundation Layout, Site levels as applicable.

Please supply photos of the site if available to help us understand any specific site constraints or hazards that are present.

Please note there is a limit size of 10Mb for each email sent to Network Rail. Due to security we are unable to access most drop box facilities.

Additional Information: [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

Thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire.

Please send it, with any attachments, to the appropriate Asset Protection Team for your location – see map on the [Website](#) for reference. A member of the area team will then contact you to discuss your works.

| Asset Protection Team                         | Email Address                                                                                                          |
|-----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Scotland                                      | <a href="mailto:AssetProtectionScotland@networkrail.co.uk">AssetProtectionScotland@networkrail.co.uk</a>               |
| LNW -North (London North Western)             | <a href="mailto:AssetProtectionLNWNorth@networkrail.co.uk">AssetProtectionLNWNorth@networkrail.co.uk</a>               |
| LNW – South (London North Western)            | <a href="mailto:AssetProtectionLNWSouth@networkrail.co.uk">AssetProtectionLNWSouth@networkrail.co.uk</a>               |
| LNE EM (London North Eastern – East Midlands) | <a href="mailto:AssetProtectionLNEEM@networkrail.co.uk">AssetProtectionLNEEM@networkrail.co.uk</a>                     |
| Wales                                         | <a href="mailto:AssetProtectionWales@networkrail.co.uk">AssetProtectionWales@networkrail.co.uk</a>                     |
| Anglia                                        | <a href="mailto:AssetProtectionAnglia@networkrail.co.uk">AssetProtectionAnglia@networkrail.co.uk</a>                   |
| Western                                       | <a href="mailto:AssetProtectionWestern@networkrail.co.uk">AssetProtectionWestern@networkrail.co.uk</a>                 |
| Kent and Sussex                               | <a href="mailto:AssetProtectionLondonSouthEast@networkrail.co.uk">AssetProtectionLondonSouthEast@networkrail.co.uk</a> |
| Wessex                                        | <a href="mailto:AssetProtectionWessex@networkrail.co.uk">AssetProtectionWessex@networkrail.co.uk</a>                   |
| High Speed                                    | <a href="mailto:AssetProtectionHighSpeed1@networkrail.co.uk">AssetProtectionHighSpeed1@networkrail.co.uk</a>           |

**From:** [REDACTED]@networkrail.co.uk> on behalf of Town Planning NWC  
<TownPlanningNWC@networkrail.co.uk>  
**Sent:** 16 September 2026 12:41  
**To:** Stanlow Hydrogen and CHP  
**Subject:** Planning Inspector EN0110007 Stanlow Hydrogen Ready Modular CHPP - EIA  
Scoping Level Crossings  
  
**Categories:** EST

OFFICIAL

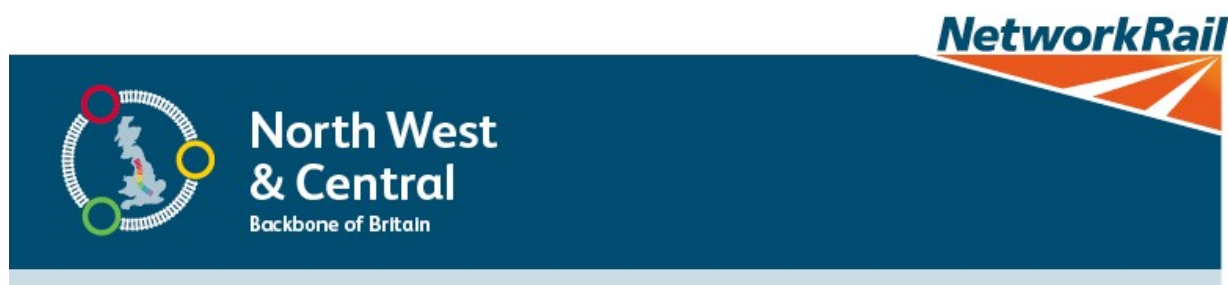
Good Afternoon [REDACTED]

In addition to the initial comments & for information, Network Rail has issued internal consultation on impacts to any railway level crossings within the area of the proposal. The Route Level Crossings Manager has stated that the only level crossing in the area is **Ince & Elton** which is placed at the railway station. This crossing is a station footpath and is used for level access to one of the platforms and therefore will not be impacted by the proposal.

At this stage I have received no further comments or concerns so this can now be closed out. If anything emerges as an issue (upon a more detailed examination) then this would come through via the Network Rail Asset Protection team so we can close this out for this consultation.

**From**

[REDACTED] RTPI Tech  
Town Planning Technician NWC  
Network Rail Property (NW&C)  
Square One, 4 Travis Street, Manchester M1 2NY  
Email address for all applications and notifications: [TownPlanningNWC@networkrail.co.uk](mailto:TownPlanningNWC@networkrail.co.uk)



---

**From:** Stanlow Hydrogen and CHP <stanlowhydrogenandchp@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** 15 September 2026 15:52  
**To:** Town Planning NWC <TownPlanningNWC@networkrail.co.uk>; Stanlow Hydrogen and CHP  
<stanlowhydrogenandchp@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** RE: Planning Inspector EN0110007 Stanlow Hydrogen Ready Modular CHPP - EIA Scoping Network Rail initial comments

**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of [Town Planning NWC](#)  
**To:** [Stanlow Hydrogen and CHP](#)  
**Subject:** PI - EN0110007 Stanlow Hydrogen Ready Modular Combined Heat Power Project - EIA Scoping conveyances  
**Date:** 29 September 2026 12:50:51  
**Attachments:** [Conveyance Plan.png](#)

---

OFFICIAL

FAO Stanlow team

Network Rail (NR) has the following comments from our Property team for the attention of the Planning Inspector and the developer.

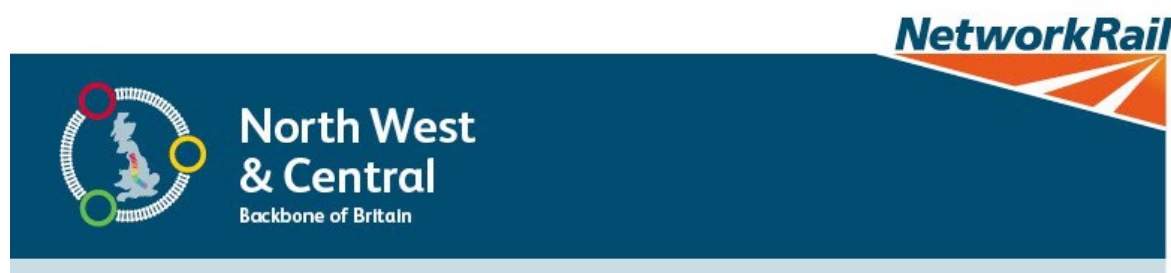
*The land shown on the attached plan is subject to a 1966 Conveyance between BRB and Shell. Under the Conveyance, NR has the benefit of a retained pedestrian right of way over the land for railway purposes. It also contains restrictive covenants preventing any increase in drainage discharge into railway drains or culverts without prior approval, and any works that could affect the safety or stability of the adjoining railway.*

*The deed for Footbridge 18C grants Shell and its successors a permanent right to maintain the parts of the replacement footbridge situated on Board land, together with a right to pass and repass over those parts situated on railway land. NR and station users retain rights to use the new footbridge.*

*NR has determined that the deed for Bridge 20, which confirms that the local council is responsible for maintaining the road surface, while the structure remains NR's responsibility.*

**From**

[REDACTED] RTPI Tech  
Town Planning Technician NWC  
Network Rail Property (NW&C)  
Square One, 4 Travis Street, Manchester M1 2NY  
Email address for all applications and notifications:  
[TownPlanningNWC@networkrail.co.uk](mailto:TownPlanningNWC@networkrail.co.uk)



\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*\*

The content of this email (and any attachment) is confidential. It may also be legally privileged or otherwise protected from disclosure.

This email should not be used by anyone who is not an original intended recipient, nor may it be copied or disclosed to anyone who is not an original intended recipient.

If you have received this email by mistake, please notify us by emailing the sender, and then delete the email and any copies from your system.

Liability cannot be accepted for statements made which are clearly the sender's own and not made on behalf of Network Rail.

Network Rail Infrastructure Limited registered in England and Wales No. 2904587, registered office Network Rail, Waterloo General Office, London, SE1 8SW.

\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*\*

Boundary

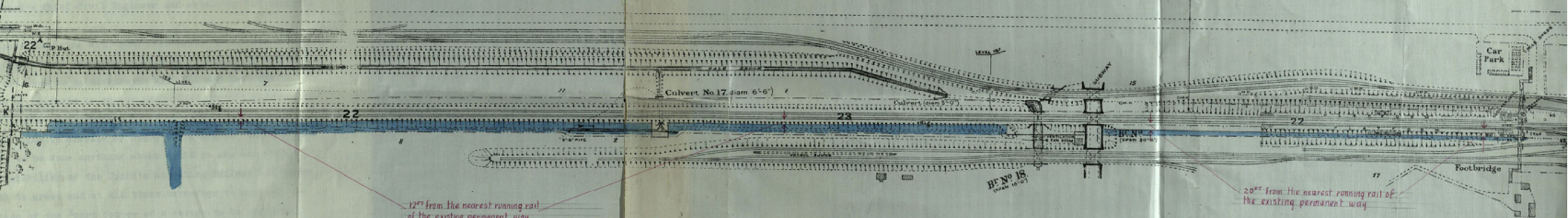
1/4

1/2

3/4

Oil Refinery  
(SHELL TRANSPORT & TRADING CO. LTD.)

STANLOW & THORNTON STATION



PLAN No. 1022. 65  
DATE 22. 10. 65  
SHEET 1 OF 1  
(25.4) 10.1

Oil Ref  
(SHELL MEX PETROLE)

Lead Development Liaison Officer  
[REDACTED]@nationalgrid.com  
[REDACTED]

Development Liaison Support Officer  
[REDACTED]@nationalgrid.com  
[REDACTED]

Customer Connections Site Solutions (CCSS)  
Land, Planning and External Affairs (LPEA)  
National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET)  
[www.nationalgrid.com](http://www.nationalgrid.com)

SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY:  
[stanlowhydrogenandchp@planninginspectorate.gov.uk](mailto:stanlowhydrogenandchp@planninginspectorate.gov.uk)

01 October 2026

Dear Sir/Madam

**RE: APPLICATION BY Essar Energy Transition Fuels (EET Fuels) (THE APPLICANT) FOR AN ORDER GRANTING DEVELOPMENT CONSENT FOR THE Stanlow Hydrogen Ready Modular Combined Heat and Power Project (THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT)**

## **SCOPING CONSULTATION RESPONSE**

We refer to your letter dated 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2026 in relation to the above proposed application. This is a response on behalf of National Grid Electricity Transmission PLC (NGET).

Having reviewed the scoping report, we would like to make the following comments regarding NGET existing or future infrastructure in close proximity to the current red line boundary.

NGET has high voltage electricity substations and overhead transmission lines within close proximity the scoping area. The overhead lines form an essential part of the electricity transmission network in England and Wales.

### **Existing Infrastructure**

#### **Overhead Lines**

YYS ROUTE 132kV      CAPENHURST - INCE 1  
CAPENHURST - INCE 2

We enclose a plan showing the location of NGET's apparatus in the scoping area.

In addition, GIS shapefiles of approximate locations of our national electricity transmission network are freely available from here: <https://www.nationalgrid.com/electricity-transmission/network-and-infrastructure/network-route-maps>. You can also check if your works will affect our transmission network by using the Line search website: <https://lsbud.co.uk/>.

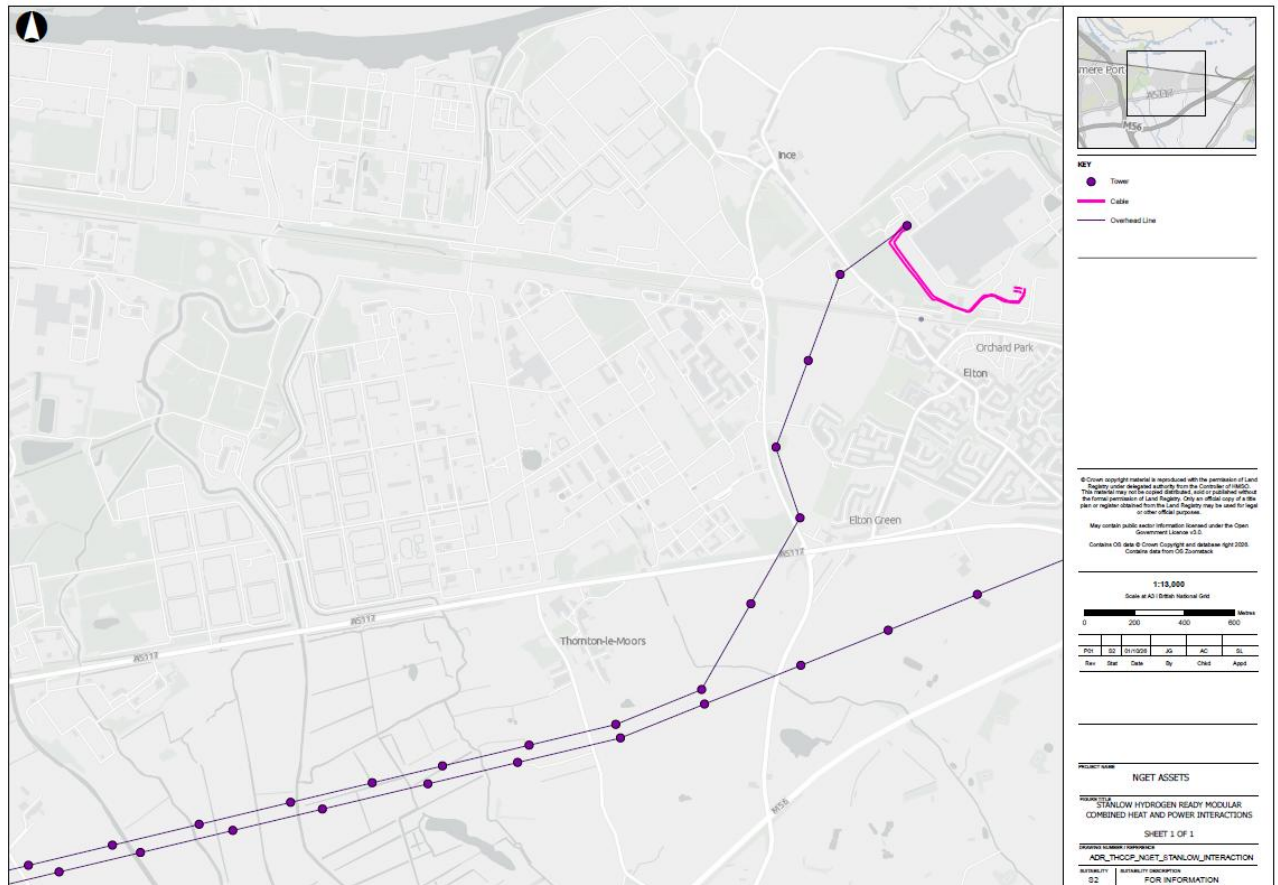


Figure 1: NGET Assets in proposed development area

## New infrastructure

The National Energy System Operator (NESO) took over the electricity network planning responsibility from National Grid Electricity System Operator Limited (NGESO) on the 1st October 2024. Please consult with NESO separately from NGET where further information on the strategic need or capacity is sought.

Please refer to the Holistic Network Design (HND) and the NESO website to view the strategic vision for the UK's ever growing electricity transmission network: <https://www.neso.energy/publications/beyond-2030/holistic-network-design-offshore-wind>; and <https://www.neso.energy/publications/beyond-2030>

## Onshore Infrastructure

**It should be noted that there may be further interactions with additional new strategic infrastructure where the projects are in their early development.**

NGET requests that all existing and future assets are given due consideration given their criticality to the high-voltage transmission of electricity across the UK. We remain committed to working with the promoter in a proactive manner, enabling both parties to deliver successful projects wherever reasonably possible. As such we encourage that ongoing discussion and consultation between both parties is maintained on interactions with existing or future assets, land interests, connections or consents and any other NGET interests which have the potential to be impacted prior to submission of the Proposed DCO.

The Great Grid Upgrade is the largest overhaul of the electricity grid in generations, we are in the middle of a transformation, with the energy we use increasingly coming from cleaner greener sources. Our infrastructure projects across England and Wales are helping to connect more renewable energy to homes and

businesses. To find out more about our current projects please refer to our network and infrastructure webpage. <https://www.nationalgrid.com/electricity-transmission/network-and-infrastructure/infrastructure-projects>. Where it has been identified that your project interacts with or is in close proximity to one of NGET's infrastructure projects, we would welcome further discussion at the earliest opportunity.

These projects are all essential to increase the overall network capability to connect the numerous new offshore wind farms that are being developed, and transport new clean green energy to the homes and businesses where it is needed.

The following points should be taken into consideration.

## Specific Comments – Electricity Infrastructure:

- NGET's Overhead Line/s is protected by a Deed of Easement/Wayleave Agreement which provides full right of access to retain, maintain, repair and inspect our asset
- Statutory electrical safety clearances must be maintained at all times. Any proposed buildings must not be closer than 5.3m to the lowest conductor. NGET recommends that no permanent structures are built directly beneath overhead lines. These distances are set out in EN 43 – 8 Technical Specification for "overhead line clearances Issue 5 (2019)".
- If any changes in ground levels are proposed either beneath or in close proximity to our existing overhead lines, then this would serve to reduce the safety clearances for such overhead lines. Safe clearances for existing overhead lines must be maintained in all circumstances.
- The relevant guidance in relation to working safely near to existing overhead lines is contained within the Health and Safety Executive's ([www.hse.gov.uk](http://www.hse.gov.uk)) Guidance Note GS 6 "Avoidance of Danger from Overhead Electric Lines" and all relevant site staff should make sure that they are both aware of and understand this guidance.
- Plant, machinery, equipment, buildings or scaffolding should not encroach within 5.3 metres of any of our high voltage conductors. When those conductors are under their worst conditions of maximum "sag" and "swing" and overhead line profile (maximum "sag" and "swing") drawings should be obtained using the contact details above.
- If a landscaping scheme is proposed as part of the proposal, we request that only slow and low growing species of trees and shrubs are planted beneath and adjacent to the existing overhead line to reduce the risk of growth to a height which compromises statutory safety clearances.
- Drilling or excavation works should not be undertaken if they have the potential to disturb or adversely affect the foundations or "pillars of support" of any existing tower. These foundations always extend beyond the base area of the existing tower and foundation ("pillar of support") drawings can be obtained using the contact details above.
- NGET high voltage underground cables are protected by a Deed of Grant; Easement; Wayleave Agreement or the provisions of the New Roads and Street Works Act. These provisions provide NGET full right of access to retain, maintain, repair and inspect our assets. Hence, we require that no permanent / temporary structures are to be built over our cables or within the easement strip. Any such proposals should be discussed and agreed with NGET prior to any works taking place.
- Ground levels above our cables must not be altered in any way. Any alterations to the depth of our cables will subsequently alter the rating of the circuit and can compromise the reliability, efficiency and safety of our electricity network and requires consultation with National Grid prior to any such changes in both level and construction being implemented.

## Further Advice

NGET requests to be consulted at the earliest stages to ensure that the most appropriate protective provisions are included within the DCO application to safeguard the integrity of our apparatus and to remove the requirement for objection. All consultations should be sent to the following email address: [box.landandacquisitions@nationalgrid.com](mailto:box.landandacquisitions@nationalgrid.com)

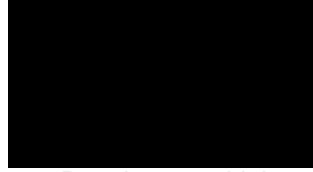
We hope the above information is useful. If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact the Land Development Liaison team. In the meantime, we look forward to receipt of further information and consultation relating to potential impacts on our assets.

The information in this letter is provided notwithstanding any discussions taking place in relation to connections with electricity customer services.

Yours faithfully,



Lead Development Liaison Officer  
Customer Connections Site Solutions (CCSS)  
Land, Planning and External Affairs (LPEA)



Development Liaison Support Officer  
Customer Connections Site Solutions (CCSS)  
Land, Planning and External Affairs (LPEA)

Technical Guidance Note 287

# Third-party guidance for working near National Grid Electricity Transmission equipment

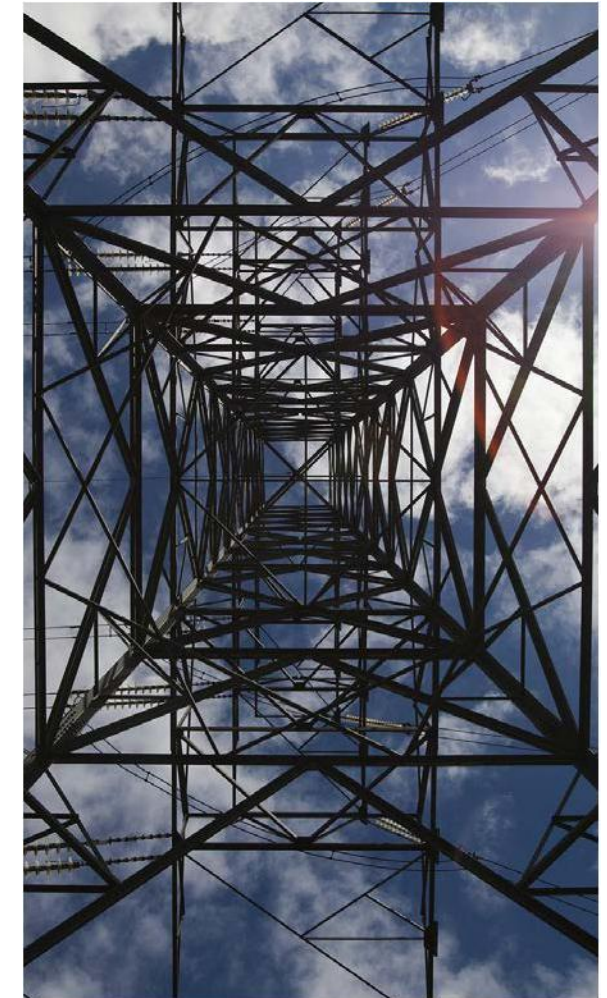
---

nationalgrid





|                                                    |          |                                                   |           |
|----------------------------------------------------|----------|---------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| <b>Purpose and scope</b> .....                     | <b>3</b> | Risk of impact identification .....               | 6         |
| Contact National Grid .....                        | 3        | <b>Risks or hazards to be aware of</b> .....      | <b>7</b>  |
| How to identify specific National Grid sites.....  | 3        | Land and access .....                             | 7         |
| Plant protection.....                              | 3        | Electrical clearance from overhead lines.....     | 7         |
| Emergencies.....                                   | 3        | Underground cables.....                           | 8         |
| <br><b>Part 1 – Electricity Transmission</b>       |          | Impressed voltage .....                           | 8         |
| <b>infrastructure</b> .....                        | <b>4</b> | Earth potential rise.....                         | 9         |
| Overhead lines.....                                | 4        | Noise .....                                       | 9         |
| Underground cables.....                            | 4        | Maintenance access .....                          | 9         |
| Substations .....                                  | 4        | Fires and firefighting.....                       | 10        |
| <br><b>Part 2 – Statutory requirements for</b>     |          | Excavations, piling or tunnelling .....           | 10        |
| <b>working near high-voltage electricity</b> ..... | <b>4</b> | Microshocks.....                                  | 10        |
| Electrical safety clearances .....                 | 4        | <b>Specific development guidance</b> .....        | <b>11</b> |
| Your Responsibilities – Overhead Lines.....        | 5        | Wind farms .....                                  | 11        |
| <br><b>Part 3 – What National Grid will do for</b> |          | Commercial and housing developments .....         | 11        |
| <b>you and your development</b> .....              | <b>6</b> | Solar farms.....                                  | 12        |
| <b>Provision of information</b> .....              | <b>6</b> | <b>Asset protection agreements</b> .....          | <b>13</b> |
| Drawings.....                                      | 6        | <b>Contact details</b> .....                      | <b>13</b> |
|                                                    |          | Emergency situations .....                        | 13        |
|                                                    |          | Routine enquiries .....                           | 13        |
|                                                    |          | <b>Appendix A OHL Profile Drawing Guide</b> ..... | <b>14</b> |
|                                                    |          | <b>Appendix B OHL Tower Stand Off &amp;</b>       |           |
|                                                    |          | <b>Reconductoring Area</b> .....                  | <b>15</b> |



#### Disclaimer

National Grid Gas Transmission and National Grid Electricity Transmission or their agents, servants or contractors do not accept any liability for any losses arising under or in connection with this information. This limit on liability applies to all and any claims in contract, tort (including negligence), misrepresentation (excluding fraudulent misrepresentation), breach of statutory duty or otherwise. This limit on liability does not exclude or restrict liability where prohibited by the law, nor does it supersede the express terms of any related agreements.



# Purpose and scope

The purpose of this document is to give guidance and information to third parties who are proposing, scheduling or designing developments close to National Grid Electricity Transmission assets.

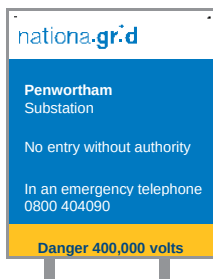
The scope of the report covers information on basic safety and the location of our assets – and also highlights key issues around particular types of development and risk areas.

In the case of electrical assets, National Grid does not authorise or agree safe systems of work with developers and contractors. However, we will advise on issues such as electrical safety clearances and the location of towers and cables. We also work with developers to minimise the impact of any National Grid assets that are nearby.

## How to identify specific National Grid sites

### Substations

The name of the Substation and emergency contact number will be on the site sign.



### Overhead Lines

The reference number of the tower and the emergency contact number will be on this type of sign.



## Contact National Grid

### Plant protection

For routine enquiries regarding planned or scheduled works, contact the Asset Protection team online, by email or phone.

**www.lsbud.co.uk**

**Email:** [assetprotection@nationalgrid.com](mailto:assetprotection@nationalgrid.com)

**Phone:** 0800 001 4282

### Emergencies

In the event of occurrences such as a cable strike, coming into contact with an overhead line conductor or identifying any hazards or problems with National Grid's equipment, phone our emergency number 0800 404 090 (option 1).

If you have apparatus within 30m of a National Grid asset, please ensure that the emergency number is included in your site's emergency procedures.

### Consider safety

Consider the hazards identified in this document when working near electrical equipment



## Part 1

### Electricity transmission infrastructure

National Grid owns and maintains the high-voltage electricity transmission network in England and Wales (Scotland has its own networks). It's responsible for balancing supply with demand on a minute-by-minute basis across the network.

#### Overhead lines

Overhead lines consist of two main parts – pylons (also called towers) and conductors (or wires). Pylons are typically steel lattice structures mounted on concrete foundations. A pylon's design can vary due to factors such as voltage, conductor type and the strength of structure required.

Conductors, which are the 'live' part of the overhead line, hang from pylons on insulators. Conductors come in several different designs depending on the amount of power that is transmitted on the circuit.

In addition to the two main components, some Overhead Line Routes carry a Fibre Optic cable between the towers with an final underground connection to the Substations.

In most cases, National Grid's overhead lines operate at 275kV or 400kV.

#### Underground cables

Underground cables are a growing feature of National Grid's network. They consist of a conducting core surrounded by layers of insulation and armour. Cables can be laid in the road, across open land or in tunnels. They operate at a range of voltages, up to 400kV.

#### Substations

Substations are found at points on the network where circuits come together or where a rise or fall in voltage is required. Transmission substations tend to be large facilities containing equipment such as power transformers, circuit breakers, reactors and capacitors. In addition Diesel generators and compressed air systems can be located there.

## Part 2

### Statutory requirements for working near high-voltage electricity

The legal framework that regulates electrical safety in the UK is *The Electricity Safety, Quality and Continuity Regulations (ESQCR) 2002*. This also details the minimum electrical safety clearances, which are used as a basis for the Energy Networks Association (ENA) TS 43-8. These standards have been agreed by CENELEC (European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardisation) and also form part of the *British Standard BS EN 50341-1:2012 Overhead Electrical Lines exceeding AC 1kV*. All electricity companies are bound by these rules, standards and technical specifications. They are required to uphold them by their operator's licence.

#### Electrical safety clearances

It is essential that a safe distance is kept between the exposed conductors and people and objects when working near National Grid's electrical assets. A person does not have to touch an exposed conductor to get a life-threatening

electric shock. At the voltages National Grid operates at, it is possible for electricity to jump up to several metres from an exposed conductor and kill or cause serious injury to anyone who is nearby. For this reason, there are several legal requirements and safety standards that must be met.

Any breach of legal safety clearances will be enforced in the courts. This can and has resulted in the removal of an infringement, which is normally at the cost of the developer or whoever caused it to be there. Breaching safety clearances, even temporarily, risks a serious incident that could cause serious injury or death.

National Grid will, on request, advise planning authorities, developers or third parties on any safety clearances and associated issues. We can supply detailed drawings of all our overhead line assets marked up with relevant safe areas.



« [Section continued from previous page](#)

### **Your Responsibilities - Overhead lines**

Work which takes place near overhead power lines carries a significant risk of coming into proximity with the wires. If any person, object or material gets too close to the wires, electricity could 'flashover' and be conducted to earth, causing death or serious injury. You do not need to touch the wires for this to happen. The law requires that work is carried out in close proximity to live overhead power lines only when there is no alternative, and only when the risks are acceptable and can be properly controlled. Statutory clearances exist which must be maintained, as prescribed by the Electricity Safety, Quality and Continuity Regulations 2002.

Under the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 and Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999, you are responsible for preparing a suitable and sufficient risk assessment and safe systems of work, to ensure that risks are managed properly and the safety of your workforce and others is maintained. Your risk assessment must consider and manage all of the significant risks and put in place suitable precautions/controls in order to manage the work safely. You are also responsible for ensuring that the precautions identified are properly implemented and stay in place throughout the work.

Work near overhead power lines must always be conducted in accordance with GS6, 'avoiding danger from overhead power lines', and any legislation which is relevant to the work you are completing.

.

### **What National Grid will provide**

National Grid can supply profile drawings in PDF and CAD format showing tower locations and relevant clearances to assist you in the risk assessment process.

### **What National Grid will not provide**

National Grid will not approve safe systems of work or approve design proposals

## Part 3

### What National Grid will do for you and your development

#### Provision of information

National Grid should be notified during the planning stage of any works or developments taking place near our electrical assets, ideally a minimum notification period of 8 weeks to allow National Grid to provide the following services:

#### Drawings

National Grid will provide relevant drawings of overhead lines or underground cables to make sure the presence and location of our services are known. Once a third party or developer has contacted us, we will supply the drawings for free.

# 400kV

*The maximum nominal voltage of the underground cables in National Grid's network*

#### Risk or impact identification

National Grid can help identify any hazards or risks that the presence of our assets might bring to any works or developments. This includes both the risk to safety from high-voltage electricity and longer-term issues, such as induced currents, noise and maintenance access that may affect the outcome of the development. National Grid will not authorise specific working procedures, but we can provide advice on best practice.





## Risks or hazards to be aware of

This section includes a brief description of some of the hazards and issues that a third party or developer might face when working or developing close to our electrical infrastructure.

### Land and access

National Grid has land rights in place with landowners and occupiers, which cover our existing overhead lines and underground cable network. These agreements, together with legislation set out under the *Electricity Act 1989*, allow us to access our assets to maintain, repair and renew them. The agreements also lay down restrictions and covenants to protect the integrity of our assets and meet safety regulations. Anyone proposing a development close to our assets should carefully examine these agreements.

Our agreements often affect land both inside and outside the immediate vicinity of an asset. Rights will include the provision of access, along with restrictions that ban the development of land through building, changing levels, planting and other operations. Anyone looking to develop close to our assets must consult with National Grid first.

### For further information, contact Asset Protection:

Email: [assetprotection@nationalgrid.com](mailto:assetprotection@nationalgrid.com)  
Phone: 0800 001 4282

### Electrical clearance from overhead lines

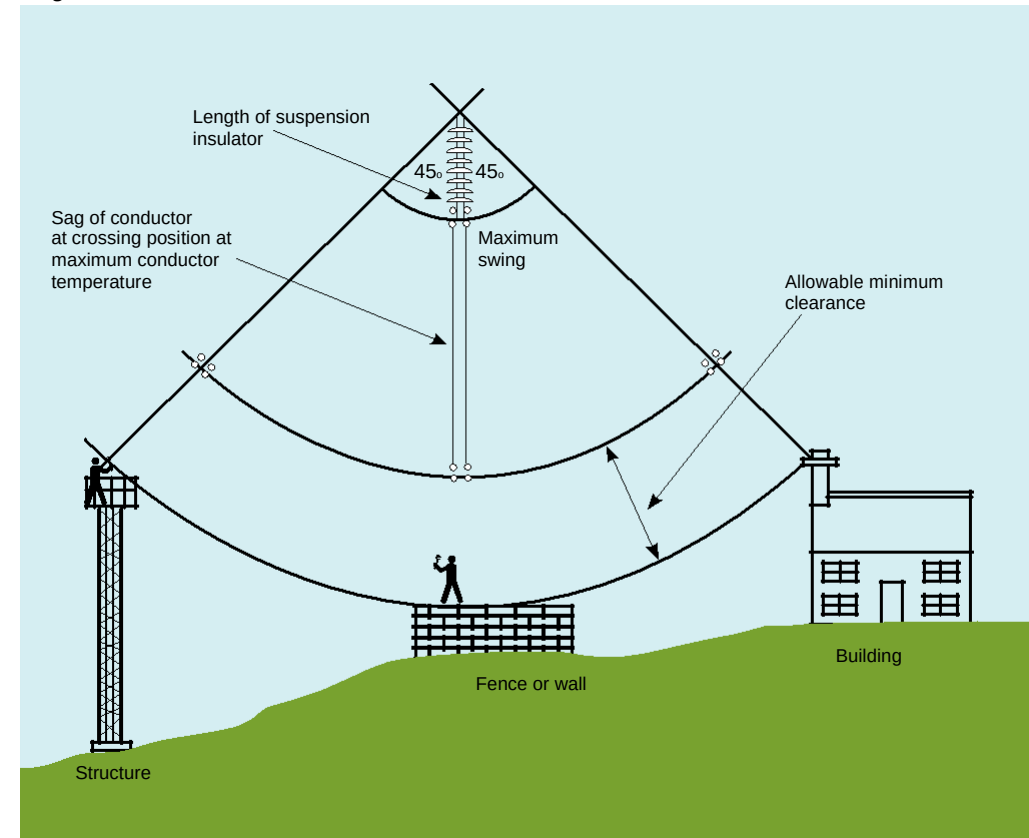
*The clearance distances referred to in this section are specific to 400kV overhead lines. National Grid can advise on the distances required around different voltages i.e. 132kV and 275kV.*

As we explained earlier, *Electrical Networks Association TS 43-8* details the legal clearances to our overhead lines. The minimum clearance between the conductors of an overhead line and the ground is 7.3m at maximum sag. The sag is the vertical distance between the wire's highest and lowest point. Certain conditions, such as power flow, wind speed and air temperature can cause conductors to move and allowances should be made for this.

The required clearance from the point where a person can stand to the conductors is 5.3m. To be clear, this means there should be at least 5.3m from where someone could stand on any structure (i.e. mobile and construction equipment) to the conductors. Available clearances will be assessed by National Grid on an individual basis.

National Grid expects third parties to implement a safe system of work whenever they are near Overhead Lines.

Diagram not to scale



*There should be at least 5.3m between the conductors and any structure someone could stand on*

We recommend that guidance such as *HSE Guidance Note GS6 (Avoiding Danger from Overhead Power Lines)* is followed, which provides advice on how to avoid danger from all overhead lines, at all voltages. If you are carrying out work near overhead lines you must contact National Grid, who will provide the relevant profile drawings.

# 7.3m

*The required minimum clearance between the conductors of an overhead line, at maximum sag, and the ground*

Section continues on next page »



The undergrounding of electricity cables at Ross-on-Wye

« Section continued from previous page

**Underground cables** Underground cables operating at up to 400kV are a significant part of the National Grid Electricity Transmission network. When your works will involve any ground disturbance it is expected that a safe system of work is put in place and that you follow guidance such as *HSG 47 (Avoiding Danger from Underground Services)*.

You must contact National Grid to find out if there are any underground cables near your proposed works. If there are, we will provide cable profiles and location drawings and, if required, on-site supervision of the works. Cables can be laid under roads or across industrial or agricultural land. They can even be laid in canal towpaths and other areas that you would not expect.

Cables crossing any National Grid high-voltage (HV) cables directly buried in the ground are required to maintain a minimum separation that will be determined by National Grid on a case-by-case basis. National Grid will need to do a rating study on the existing cable to work out if there are any adverse effects on either cable rating. We will only allow a cable to cross such an area once we know the results of the re-rating. As a result, the clearance distance may need to be increased or alternative methods of crossing found.

For other cables and services crossing the path of our HV cables, National Grid will need confirmation that published standards and clearances are met.

### Impressed voltage

Any conducting materials installed near high-voltage equipment could be raised to an elevated voltage compared to the local earth, even when there is no direct contact with the high-voltage equipment. These impressed voltages are caused by inductive or capacitive coupling between the high-voltage equipment and nearby conducting materials and can occur at distances of several metres away from the

equipment. Impressed voltages may damage your equipment and could potentially injure people and animals, depending on their severity. Third parties should take impressed voltages into account during the early stages and initial design of any development, ensuring that all structures and equipment are adequately earthed at all times.

Section continues on  
next page »



« Section continued from previous page

### Earth potential rise

Under certain system fault conditions – and during lightning storms – a rise in the earth potential from the base of an overhead line tower or substation is possible. This is a rare phenomenon that occurs when large amounts of electricity enter the earth. This can pose a serious hazard to people or equipment that are close by.

We advise that developments and works are not carried out close to our tower bases, particularly during lightning storms.

### Noise

Noise is a by-product of National Grid's operations and is carefully assessed during the planning and construction of any of our equipment. Developers should consider the noise emitted from National Grid's sites or overhead lines when planning any developments, particularly housing. Low-frequency hum from substations can, in some circumstances, be heard up to 1km or more from the site, so it is essential that developers find adequate solutions for this in their design. Further information about likely noise levels can be provided by National Grid.

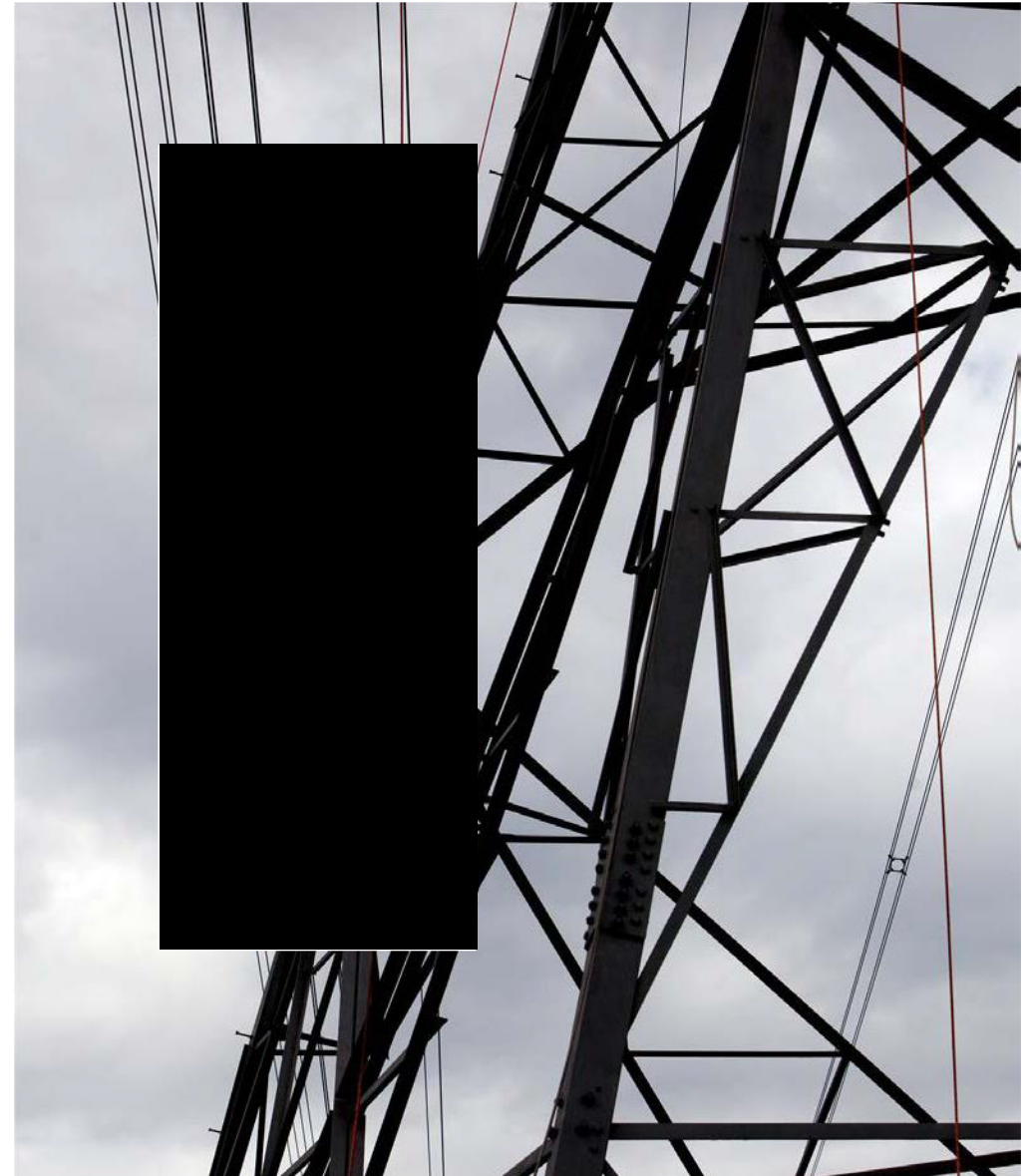
### Maintenance access

National Grid needs to have safe access for vehicles around its assets and work that restricts this will not be allowed. In terms of our overhead lines, we wouldn't want to see any excavations made, or permanent structures built, that might affect the foundations of our towers. The size of the foundations around a tower base depends on the type of tower that is built there. If you wish to carry out works within 30m of the tower base, contact National Grid for more information. Our business has to maintain access routes to tower bases with land owners. For that reason, a route wide enough for an HGV must be permanently available. We may need to access our sites, towers, conductors and underground cables at short notice.

# 30m

*If you wish to carry out work within this distance of the tower base, you must contact National Grid for more information*

Section continues on next page »





« Section continued from  
previous page

### Fires and firefighting

National Grid does not recommend that any type of flammable material is stored under overhead lines. Developers should be aware that in certain cases the local fire authority will not use water hoses to put out a fire if there are live, high-voltage conductors within 30m of the seat of the fire (*as outlined in ENA TS 43-8*).

In these situations, National Grid would have to be notified and reconfigure the system – to allow staff to switch out the overhead line – before any firefighting could take place. This could take several hours.

We recommend that any site which has a specific hazard relating to fire or flammable material should include National Grid's emergency contact details (found at the beginning and end of this document) in its fire plan information, so any incidents can be reported.

Developers should also make sure their insurance cover takes into account the challenge of putting out fires near our overhead lines.

### Excavations, piling or tunnelling

You must inform National Grid of any works that have the potential to disturb the foundations of our substations or overhead line towers. This will have to be assessed by National Grid engineers before any work begins.

*BS ISO 4866:2010* states that a minimum distance of 200m should be maintained when carrying out quarry blasting near our assets. However, this can be reduced with specific site surveys and changes to the maximum instantaneous charge (the amount of explosive detonated at a particular time).

All activities should observe guidance layed out in *BS 5228-2:2009*.

### Microshocks

High-voltage overhead power lines produce an electric field. Any person or object inside this field that isn't earthed picks up an electrical charge. When two conducting objects – one that is grounded and one that isn't – touch, the charge can equalise and cause a small shock, known as a microshock. While they are not harmful, they can be disturbing for the person or animal that suffers the shock.

For these reasons, metal-framed and metal-clad buildings which are close to existing overhead lines should be earthed to minimise the risk of microshocks. Anything that isn't earthed, is conductive and sits close to the lines is likely to pick up a charge. Items such as deer fences, metal palisade fencing, chain-link fences and metal gates underneath overhead lines all need to be earthed.

For further information on microshocks please visit [www.emfs.info](http://www.emfs.info).



# 200m

*The minimum distance that  
should be maintained from  
National Grid assets when  
quarry blasting*

## Specific development guidance

### Wind farms

National Grid's policy towards wind farm development is closely connected to the *Electricity Networks Association Engineering Recommendation L44 Separation between Wind Turbines and Overhead Lines, Principles of Good Practice*. The advice is based on national guidelines and global research. It may be adjusted to suit specific local applications.

There are two main criteria in the document:

- (i) The turbine shall be far enough away to avoid the possibility of toppling onto the overhead line
- (ii) The turbine shall be far enough away to avoid damage to the overhead line from downward wake effects, also known as turbulence

The toppling distance is the minimum horizontal distance between the worst-case pivot point of the wind turbine and the conductors hanging in still air. It is the greater of:

- the tip height of the turbine plus 10%
- or, the tip height of the turbine plus the electrical safety distance that applies to the voltage of the overhead line.

To minimise the downward wake effect on an overhead line, the wind turbine should be three times the rotor distance away from the centre of the overhead line.

Wake effects can prematurely age conductors and fittings, significantly reducing the life of the asset. For that reason, careful consideration should be taken if a wind turbine needs to be sited within the above limits. Agreement from National Grid will be required.

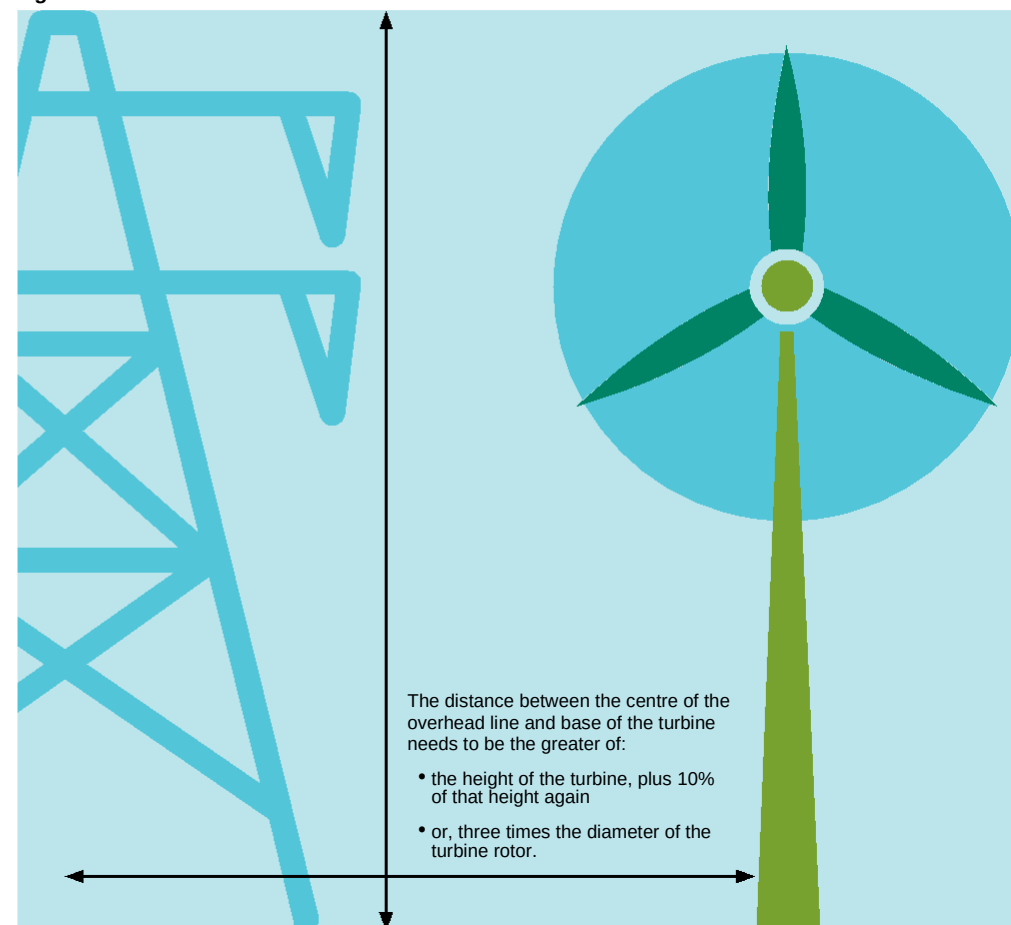
### Commercial and housing developments

National Grid has developed a document called *Design guidelines for development near pylons and HVO power lines*, which gives advice to anyone involved in planning or designing large-scale developments that are crossed by, or close to, overhead lines.

The document focuses on existing 275kV and 400kV overhead lines on steel lattice towers, but can equally apply to 132kV and below. The document explains how to design large-scale developments close to high-voltage lines, while respecting clearances and the development's visual and environmental impact.

Section continues on next page »

Diagram not to scale



Turbines should be far enough away to avoid the possibility of toppling onto the overhead line



« Section continued from previous page

The advice is intended for developers, designers, landowners, local authorities and communities, but is not limited to those organisations.

Overall, developers should be aware of all the hazards and issues relating to the electrical equipment that we have discussed when designing new housing.

As we explored earlier, National Grid's assets have the potential to create noise. This can be low frequency and tonal, which makes it quite noticeable. It is the responsibility of developers to take this into account during the design stage and find an appropriate solution.

### Solar farms

While there is limited research and recommendations available, there are several key factors to consider when designing Solar Farms in the vicinity of Overhead Power Lines.

Developers may be looking to build on arable land close to National Grid's assets. In keeping with the safety clearance limits that we outlined earlier for solar panels directly underneath overhead line conductors, the highest point on the solar panels must be no more than 5.3m from the lowest conductors.

This means that the maximum height of any structure will need to be determined to make sure safety clearance limits aren't breached. This could be as low as 2m. National Grid will supply profile drawings to aid the planning of solar farms and determine the maximum height of panels and equipment.

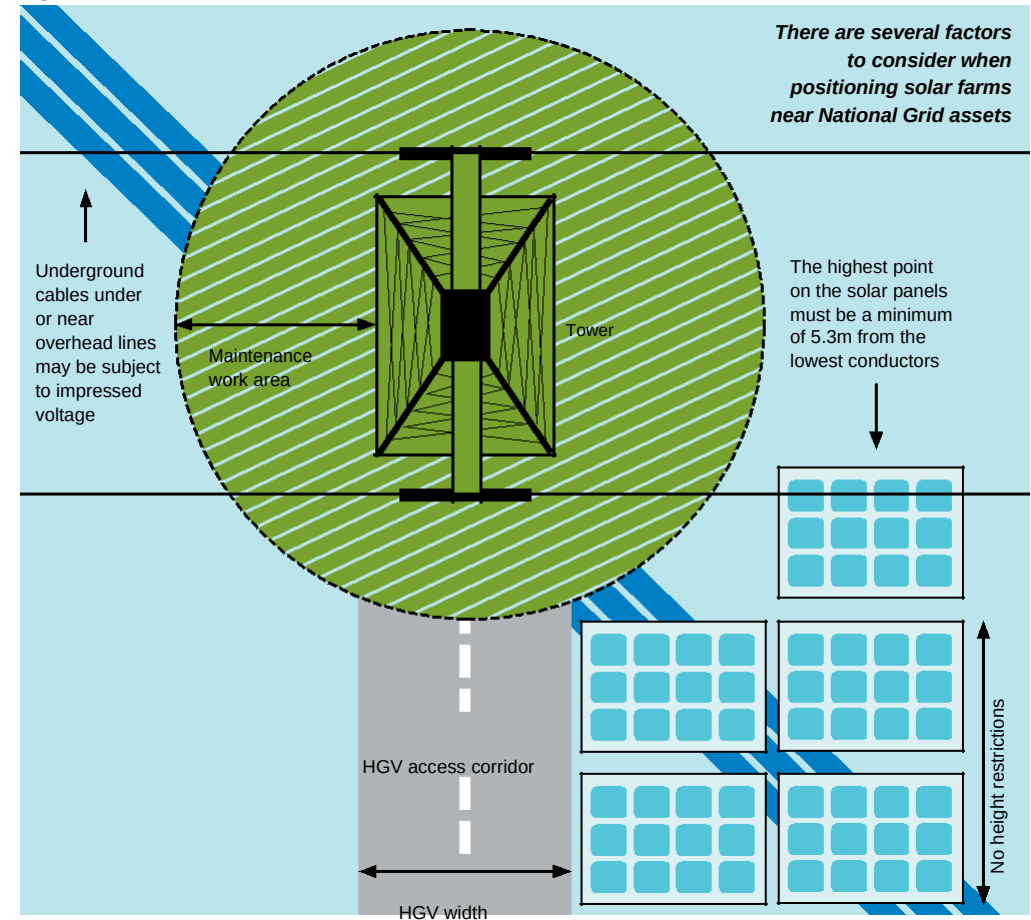
Solar panels that are directly underneath power lines risk being damaged on the rare occasion that a conductor or fitting falls to the ground. A more likely risk is ice falling from conductors or towers in winter and damaging solar panels.

There is also a risk of damage during adverse weather conditions, such as lightning storms, and system faults. As all our towers are earthed, a weather event such as lightning can cause a rise in the earth potential around the base of a tower. Solar panel support structures and supply cables should be adequately earthed and bonded together to minimise the effects of this temporary rise in earth potential.

Any metallic fencing that is located under an overhead line will pick up an electrical charge. For this reason, it will need to be adequately earthed to minimise microshocks to the public.

For normal, routine maintenance and in an emergency National Grid requires unrestricted access to its assets. So if a tower is enclosed in a solar farm compound, we will need full access for our vehicles,

Diagram not to scale



Including access through any compound gates. During maintenance – and especially re-conductoring – National Grid would need enough space near our towers for winches and cable drums. If enough space is not available, we would require solar panels to be temporarily removed.



## Asset protection agreements

In some cases, where there is a risk that development will impact on National Grid's assets, we will insist on an asset protection agreement being put in place. The cost of this will be the responsibility of the developer or third party.

## Contact details

### Emergency situations

If you spot a potential hazard on or near an overhead electricity line, do not approach it, even at ground level. Keep as far away as possible and follow the six steps below:

- Warn anyone close by to evacuate the area
- Call our 24-hour electricity emergency number: 0800 404 090 (Option 1)<sup>1</sup>
- Give your name and contact phone number
- Explain the nature of the issue or hazard
- Give as much information as possible so we can identify the location – i.e. the name of the town or village, numbers of nearby roads, postcode and (ONLY if it can be observed without putting you or others in danger) the tower number of an adjacent pylon
- Await further contact from a National Grid engineer

<sup>1</sup> It is critically important that you don't use this phone number for any other purpose. If you need to contact National Grid for another reason please use our Contact Centre at [www2.nationalgrid.com/contact-us](http://www2.nationalgrid.com/contact-us) to find the appropriate information or call 0800 0014282.

### Routine enquiries

Email:  
[assetprotection@nationalgrid.com](mailto:assetprotection@nationalgrid.com)

Call Asset Protection on:  
0800 0014282

Opening hours:  
Monday to Friday 08:00-16:00

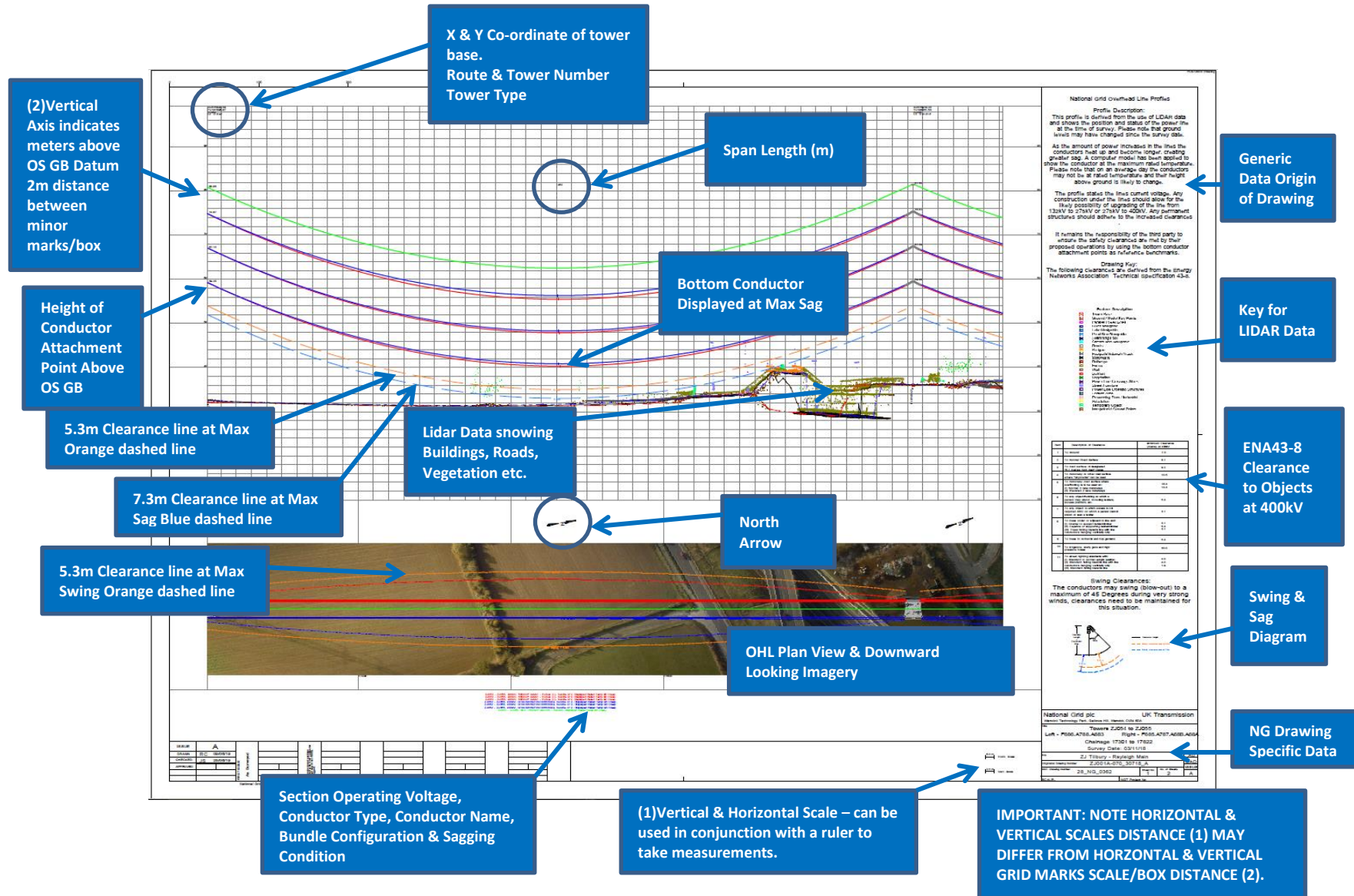
**Copyright © National Grid plc  
2021, all rights reserved**

All copyright and other intellectual property rights arising in any information contained within this document are, unless otherwise stated, owned by National Grid plc or other companies in the National Grid group of companies.

# 14 APPENDIX A



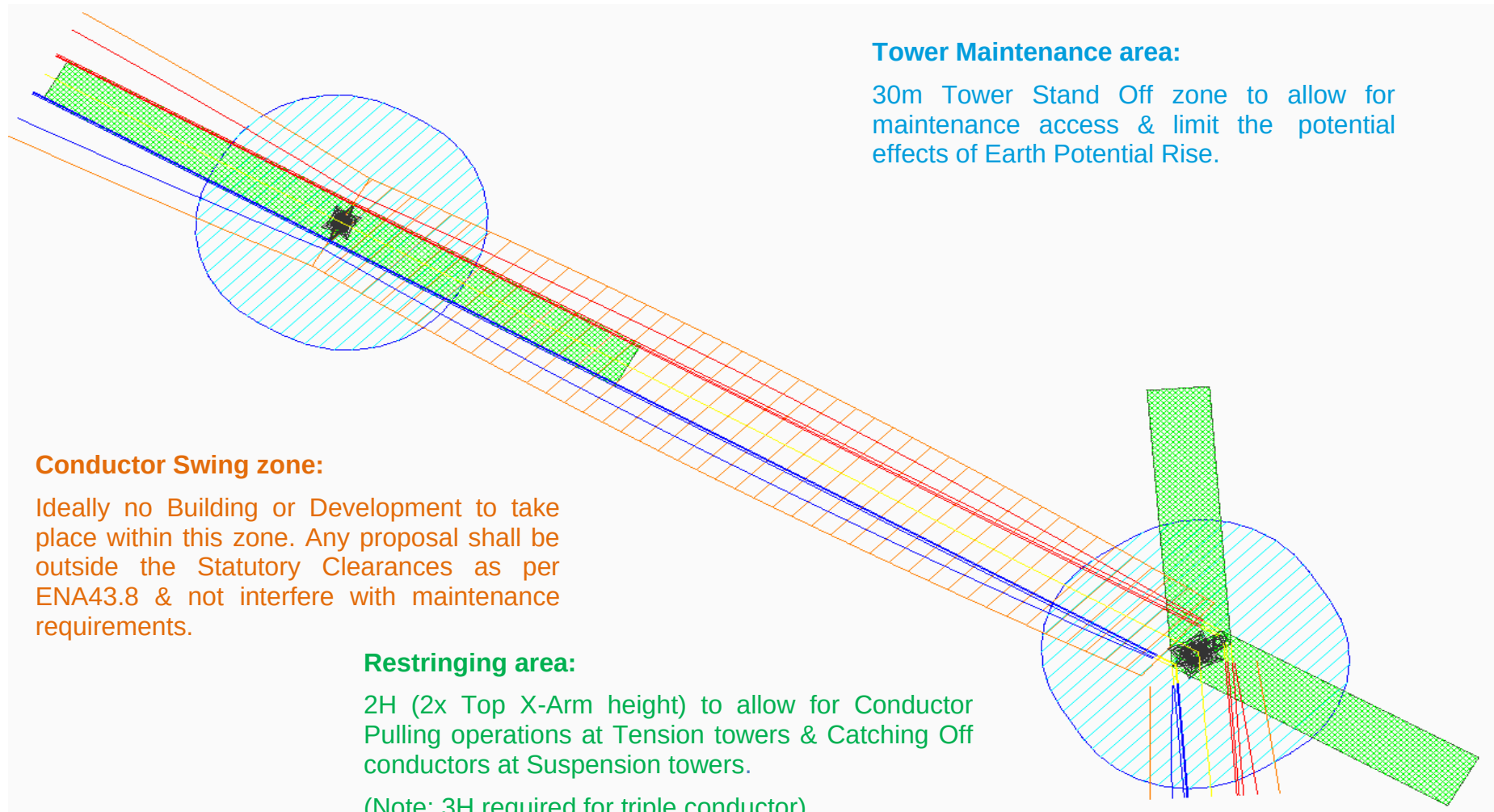
## OHL Profile Drawing Guide



# 15 APPENDIX B



## OHL Tower Stand Off & Reconductoring Area



[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Sphere Enquiries <enquiries@sphere-connections.co.uk>  
**Sent:** 21 September 2026 15:50  
**To:** Stanlow Hydrogen and CHP  
**Subject:** Re: EN0110007- Stanlow Hydrogen Ready Modular Combined Heat and Power Project - EIA Scoping Consultation and Notification

You don't often get email from enquiries@sphere-connections.co.uk. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hi Deb,

Thank you for taking the time to share these details with us.

I can confirm that Sphere Energy Connect has no assets in the vicinity of these works and have no comments to make at this time. We are a new IDNO business just entering the market and still completing Regulatory processes in order for us to operate an asset base within the UK.

Good luck with the project.

Thanks



[REDACTED] | Head of Asset Management & Operations | Sphere  
Energy Connect  
**E:** [REDACTED]@sphere-connections.co.uk | [REDACTED]

Internal Use

---

**From:** Stanlow Hydrogen and CHP <stanlowhydrogenandchp@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** 03 September 2026 09:10  
**Subject:** EN0110007- Stanlow Hydrogen Ready Modular Combined Heat and Power Project - EIA Scoping Consultation and Notification

---

**EXTERNAL SENDER: Be cautious, especially with links and attachments. Report phishing if suspicious.**

---

Dear Sir/Madam

Please see attached correspondence on the proposed Stanlow Hydrogen Ready Modular Combined Heat and Power Project.

The Applicant for the proposed development intends to make an application for Development Consent under the Planning Act 2008. The Applicant has sought a Scoping Opinion from the Planning Inspectorate, on behalf of the Secretary of State, as to the scope and level of detail of the information to be provided within the Environmental Statement that will accompany its future application.

Environmental Services  
Operations Group 3  
Temple Quay House 2  
The Square  
Bristol, BS1 6PN

07/09/2026

Dear Planning Inspectorate

**Planning Act 2008 (as amended) and The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (The EIA Regulations) – Regulations 10 and 11**

**Proposed application by ESSAR Energy Transition Fuels (EET Fuels) (the applicant) for an Order granting Development Consent for the Stanlow Hydrogen Ready Modular Combined Heat and Power Project (the proposed development)**

**Scoping consultation and notification of the applicant's contact details and duty to make available information to the applicant if requested**

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the consultation on the applicant's Scoping Report and the opportunity to feed into the Scoping Opinion for this important project.

The Manchester Ship Canal Company Limited (MSCC Ltd) owns and operates the Manchester Ship Canal and is a statutory undertaker and the harbour authority in respect of the Canal for purposes of shipping and navigation. MSCC Ltd also operates a number of operational sites/terminals adjoining the commercial waterway and undertakes a range of functions from them.

MSCC Ltd supports the applicant's approach to this Scoping Report and feels that no topics have been overlooked. MSCC Ltd recognises the importance of the proposed development in supporting energy resilience and providing a clear pathway to low-carbon energy sources in the future and therefore supports this development.

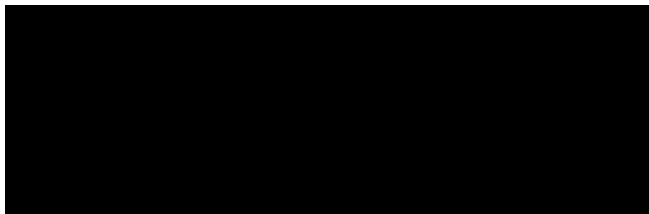
**The Manchester Ship Canal Company Limited**  
Maritime Centre  
Port of Liverpool  
L21 1LA

T : **+44 (0)151 949 6000**

W : **[www.peelports.com](http://www.peelports.com)**

The Manchester Ship Canal Company Limited (Registered No. 7438096 England). Registered Office: Maritime Centre, Port of Liverpool L21 1LA

Yours sincerely,



**Town Planning Manager**

**██████████@peelports.com**



# UK Health Security Agency

Environmental Hazards and Emergencies Department  
Seaton House, City Link  
London Road  
Nottingham, NG2 4LA

[nsipconsultations@ukhsa.gov.uk](mailto:nsipconsultations@ukhsa.gov.uk)  
[www.gov.uk/ukhsa](http://www.gov.uk/ukhsa)

Your Ref **EN0110007**  
Our Ref: 96166CIRIS

Ms Molly Harvey  
Senior Environmental Advisor,  
The Planning Inspectorate  
c/o QUADIENT  
69 Buckingham Avenue  
Slough SL1 4PN

1<sup>st</sup> October 2026

Dear Ms Harvey

**Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project  
Stanlow Hydrogen Ready Modular Combined Heat and Power Project,  
EN0110007, Pre-scoping.**

**Environmental Public Health**

We understand that the promoter will wish to avoid unnecessary duplication and that many issues including air quality, emissions to water, waste, contaminated land etc. will be covered elsewhere in the Environmental Statement (ES). We believe the summation of relevant issues into a specific section of the report provides a focus which ensures that public health is given adequate consideration. The section should summarise key information, risk assessments, proposed mitigation measures, conclusions and residual impacts relating to human health. Compliance with the requirements of National Policy Statements and relevant guidance and standards should also be highlighted.

In terms of the level of detail to be included in an ES, we recognise that the differing nature of projects is such that their impacts will vary. UKHSA and OHID's predecessor organisation Public Health England produced an advice document *Advice on the content of Environmental Statements accompanying an application under the NSIP Regime*<sup>1</sup>, setting out aspects to be addressed within the Environmental Statement<sup>1</sup>. This advice document and its recommendations are still valid and should be considered when preparing an ES.

---

<sup>1</sup>  
<https://khub.net/documents/135939561/390856715/Advice+on+the+content+of+environmental+statements+accompanying+an+application+under+the+Nationally+Significant+Infrastructure+Planning+Regime.pdf/a86b5521-46cc-98e4-4cad-f81a6c58f2e2?t=1615998516658>

Please note that where impacts relating to health and/or further assessments are scoped out, promoters should fully explain and justify this within the submitted documentation.

### **Electric and Magnetic Fields (EMF)**

UKHSA requests that the proposer confirms either that the project does not contain any EMF sources that may have a potential public health impact; or ensure that an appropriate assessment of the possible impact is included in the ES. For information on carrying out an assessment, please refer to the following code of practice, which defines the criteria for demonstrating compliance with the public exposure guidelines, including the operational conditions for scoping out electrical infrastructure:

<https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5a796799ed915d07d35b5397/1256-code-practice-emf-public-exp-guidelines.pdf>

More information is available in the following advice document produced by Public Health England, a UKHSA predecessor body:

<https://khub.net/documents/135939561/390856715/Advice+on+the+content+of+environmental+statements+accompanying+an+application+under+the+Nationally+Significant+Infrastructure+Planning+Regime.pdf/a86b5521-46cc-98e4-4cad-f81a6c58f2e2?t=1615998516658>

### **Fuel mixtures**

The proposed development is expected to be fuelled by hydrogen gas; however the applicant has mentioned that the ES assessment will be based on a mix of natural gas and refinery fuel. It is not clear from the Scoping Report if there is intention to use the BESS system during the natural gas operational phase.

### **Recommendations:**

We recommend specification of the type of fuel during operational phase of the site and consideration of the associated emissions. We also recommend the consideration of emissions from the operation of the site using natural gas, and hydrogen as the fuel source to be included in the ES.

### **BESS System**

The applicant proposes a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) within the submitted documentation. However, there is no detail on the location of this facility and no confirmation of any further risk assessment on the proposed BESS.

### **Recommendations:**

The applicant has proposed the use of a BESS as part of the development; however, no consideration has been given to the potential risks associated with its construction or operation. The risk assessment should therefore identify and evaluate any major accidents, hazards, or failure scenarios relating to the BESS, including potential impacts on previously identified receptors. Given the potential for significant public health effects, these matters should be scoped into the ES and assessed accordingly.

Yours sincerely,

On behalf of UK Health Security Agency  
[nsipconsultations@ukhsa.gov.uk](mailto:nsipconsultations@ukhsa.gov.uk)

*Please mark any correspondence for the attention of National Infrastructure Planning  
Administration*

By email only: [stanlowhydrogenandchp@planninginspectorate.gov.uk](mailto:stanlowhydrogenandchp@planninginspectorate.gov.uk)

**Your ref:** EN0110007

**Our ref:**

**Date:** 01-OCT-26

Dear Sir / Madam

**EN0110007- Stanlow Hydrogen Ready Modular Combined Heat and Power Project - EIA Scoping Consultation**

Thank you for consulting United Utilities Water Limited (U UW) on the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Scoping Report for the proposed Stanlow Hydrogen Ready Combined Heat and Power Project.

U UW has undertaken an initial review of the Scoping Report. Given the nature of the proposed development, comprising a large-scale combined heat and power facility incorporating steam generation, cooling infrastructure and associated utility connections, U UW considers that the EIA should appropriately assess water supply requirements, wastewater generation, flood risk, drainage arrangements and any interactions with existing water and wastewater infrastructure.

**1. Existing Water and Wastewater Infrastructure**

The proposed development is located within an area containing existing water and wastewater infrastructure. It is the applicant's responsibility to demonstrate the relationship between the proposed development and existing U UW's assets and to ensure that appropriate protection, access and maintenance arrangements are maintained throughout construction and operation.

The Environmental Statement should identify any U UW's assets which may be affected by construction activities, changes in ground levels, loading, vibration, utility crossings or the proposed layout. Appropriate stand-off distances and access requirements should be incorporated into the design from the outset.

The applicant should engage with U UW at an early stage to understand the location and status of existing assets and to ensure that the development is designed in a manner which avoids adverse impacts on water and wastewater infrastructure. Where U UW's assets may be affected by the proposed development, U UW will require ongoing engagement regarding asset protection measures and reserves the right to seek appropriate Protective Provisions within the Development Consent Order.

## **2. Water Supply Requirements**

UUW notes that the Scoping Report currently provides limited information regarding construction and operational water demand. The Environmental Statement should identify:

- anticipated construction and operational water demand;
- peak and average water requirements;
- water requirements associated with process activities, steam generation, cooling infrastructure and fire-fighting provision;
- the proposed source or sources of supply; and
- any implications for regional water resources, water supply infrastructure and network capacity.

Given the nature of the proposed development, early consideration should be given to operational water requirements and any associated implications for water resources. UUW generally supports a hierarchical approach to water supply whereby opportunities to utilise alternative water sources are considered before reliance on potable water supplies where this is practicable and environmentally acceptable. Notwithstanding this approach, any water demand associated with the development may have implications for regional water resources and should therefore be appropriately assessed and justified within the Environmental Statement.

## **3. Wastewater and Trade Effluent**

The Environmental Statement should clearly identify the quantity and characteristics of all wastewater streams arising from the development including:

- foul wastewater;
- process wastewater / trade effluent;
- cooling system discharges;
- boiler blowdown and associated operational discharges; and
- any other wastewater generated during operation.

The assessment should explain the proposed treatment arrangements, discharge routes and any interfaces with public wastewater infrastructure. Given the scale and operational characteristics of the proposed development, trade effluent requirements may represent a significant consideration and should be assessed at an early stage. The Environmental Statement should clearly identify the nature, volume and characteristics of any anticipated trade effluent streams and the proposed approach to their management and disposal.

The applicant should engage with UUW to discuss any anticipated trade effluent requirements and associated treatment or discharge proposals.

## **4. Flood Risk and Drainage**

UUW's modelling identifies locations in the vicinity of the proposed development which are affected by exceedance flows from the public sewerage system and areas affected by hydraulic sewer flooding.

The Environmental Statement should therefore consider flood risk from all sources, including sewer flooding, and demonstrate that the proposed development would not increase flood risk associated with the public sewerage system or adversely affect existing exceedance flow routes.

In particular, the assessment should consider:

- the relationship of the proposed development to areas affected by existing hydraulic sewer flooding and sewer exceedance flows;
- any proposed connections to the public sewerage system;
- any changes to ground levels, drainage patterns or exceedance routes;
- the interaction between the proposed development and existing wastewater infrastructure; and
- the implications of any works affecting existing drainage systems.

UUW would welcome ongoing engagement regarding sewer flood risk and drainage matters as the design evolves. The applicant should not assume that sewers can be diverted.

### *Impact on Watercourses*

UUW requests that the Environmental Statement considers the implications of any proposed works to watercourses, culverts, drainage channels or outfalls that may interact with existing UUW assets. It is important that any modifications to the water environment do not adversely affect the operation, maintenance or hydraulic performance of water and wastewater infrastructure, including existing outfalls and drainage systems. The assessment should demonstrate that proposed works will not increase flood risk, alter flow regimes or otherwise result in detrimental impacts on existing UUW assets and operations.

## **5. Surface Water Management**

The Environmental Statement should include details of the proposed drainage strategy and demonstrate how surface water will be managed in accordance with the drainage hierarchy. UUW will not support the discharge of clean surface water to the public sewerage system where more sustainable alternatives are available and feasible. The assessment should identify:

- proposed discharge destinations;
- discharge rates and volumes;
- sustainable drainage measures;
- pollution prevention and water quality measures; and
- arrangements for managing surface water during both construction and operation.

Surface water should be managed through sustainable drainage systems wherever practicable and discharged in accordance with the drainage hierarchy. There should be no land drainage or dewatering discharges to the public sewerage system. In this context, it is important that the Development Consent Order secures any necessary discharge rights to watercourse systems. This is an important matter to consider when determining the red line boundary.

## **Ongoing Engagement**

UUW welcomes continued engagement as the project evolves and would be pleased to discuss asset protection, water supply, wastewater, trade effluent, flood risk and drainage matters as part of the ongoing development of the Environmental Statement. I would be grateful if the applicant could contact me at [planning.liaison@uuplc.co.uk](mailto:planning.liaison@uuplc.co.uk) so that an opportunity can be arranged to discuss the content of this submission.

Yours faithfully

 MRTPI  
Asset Management  
United Utilities Water Limited