

HyNet North West Hydrogen Pipeline

Delivering clean growth



Adequacy of Consultation Summary

January 2025

Revision 1

Volume

Document ref.

0001

852552-WSPE-IA-CE-RP-ST-366951

Glossary

Acronym	Definition
ACM	Adequacy of Consultation Milestone
AGI	Above Ground Installation
APFP Regulations	<i>The Infrastructure Planning (Applications, Prescribed Forms and Procedures) Regulations 2009 (as amended by The Infrastructure Planning (Miscellaneous Provisions) Regulations 2024)</i>
BVI	Block Valve Installations
CCS	Carbon Capture and Storage
CFR	Consultation Feedback Report
CS	Carbon Steel
CSR	Consultation Summary Report
DCLG	Department for Communities and Local Government
DCO	Development Consent Order
DER	Design Evolution Report
DLUHC	Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities
ECS	Engagement and Consultation Strategy
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EIA Regulations	The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017
ES	Environmental Statement
HAGI	Hydrogen Above Ground Installation
HDD	Horizontal Directional Drilling
HSF	Hydrogen Storage Facility
LoD	Limit of Deviation
LPA	Local Planning Authority
MHCLG	Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government

Acronym	Definition
NSCFR	Non-Statutory Consultation Feedback Report
PA 2008	Planning Act 2008
PE	Polyethylene
PEIR	Preliminary Environmental Information Report
PIL	Persons with an interest in land
PILQ	Persons with an Interest in Land Questionnaire
PINS	Planning Inspectorate
SoCC	Statement of Community Consultation
SoS	Secretary of State

Contents

Glossary	1
1. Introduction to The Project	5
1.1 Who is Cadent?	5
1.2 Background to the Project	5
1.3 The Project	7
1.4 Adequacy of Consultation Milestone	9
2. Consultation and Engagement with LPAs on Approach to Consultation	11
2.1 Overview of the Applicant's Approach to Consultation throughout the Pre-Application Period	11
2.2 Non-Statutory Stage One Approach to Consultation	14
Overview of the Applicant's approach to the non-statutory Stage One Consultation	14
Feedback from LPAs and changes adopted	15
2.3 Statutory Stage Two SoCC Consultation	18
Overview of the Applicant's approach to statutory Stage Two Consultation	18
Feedback from LPAs and changes adopted	18
Compliance with s55 checklist	20
2.4 Statutory Stage Three SoCC consultation	21
Overview of the Applicant's approach to the statutory Stage Three Consultation	21
Feedback from LPAs and changes adopted	21
Compliance with s55 Checklist	23
3. Approach to Pre Application consultation	24
3.1 Non-Statutory Stage One Consultation	24
Purpose of the consultation	24
When the consultation took place	25
Where the consultation took place	25
Who was consulted and short summary of feedback received with links to the relevant Consultation Report	25
Compliance with the approach to consultation	27
3.2 Statutory Stage Two Consultation	27
Purpose of the consultation	27
When the consultation took place	28
Where the consultation took place	28
Who was consulted and short summary of feedback received with links to the relevant Consultation Report	29
Compliance with the SoCC and Appendix C s55 Checklist	32
3.3 Statutory Stage Three Consultation	32
Purpose of the consultation	32
When the consultation took place	34
Where the consultation took place	34
Who was consulted and short summary of feedback received with links to the relevant Consultation Report	35
Compliance with the SoCC and Appendix D s55 Checklist	38
4. Summary of Project Evolution	39

4.2	Evolution of the Preliminary Route Sections Presented at Stage One Consultation	39
	Central Hub	39
	Hydrogen Above Ground Installations	40
	North Corridor	40
	South Corridor	40
	West Corridor	40
	East Corridor	41
4.3	Evolution of the Preliminary Route Sections Presented at Statutory Stage Two Consultation	41
	Alternatives	41
	Route Location	42
	Warrington Spur	43
	Runcorn Spur	44
	Property Impacts	44
4.4	Evolution of the Preliminary Route Sections Presented at Stage Three Consultation	44
	West Corridor	44
	North Corridor	45
	East Corridor	46
	South Corridor	46
	Central Hub	47
4.5	Draft Order Limits	47
5.	How the Applicant would undertake any Supplementary or Targeted Consultation	48
5.1	Supplementary or Targeted Consultation	48
	Purpose of the consultation	48
	When the consultation will take place	48
	Where the consultation will take place	49
6.	Conclusion	50

Table 2.1 - Dates of pre-consultation briefing meetings with host authorities	15
Table 2.2 - Feedback received on the ECS and the Applicant's responses	15
Table 2.3 - Feedback received on the Stage Two Consultation draft SoCC and the Applicant's responses	18
Table 2.4 - Feedback received on the Stage Three Consultation draft SoCC and the Applicant's responses	22
Table 3.1 - Local authorities consulted during the Stage Two Consultation	29
Table 3.2 - Local authorities consulted during the Statutory Stage Three Consultation	35

Appendix A	Engagement and Consultation Strategy
Appendix B	Host Authority Responses to Engagement and Consultation Strategy
Appendix C	Stage Two Consultation Section 55 Checklist
Appendix D	Stage Three Consultation Section 55 Checklist
Appendix E	Stage One Consultation Compliance Table
Appendix F	Stage Two SoCC Compliance Table
Appendix G	Stage Three SoCC Compliance Table

1. Introduction to The Project

1.1 Who is Cadent?

- 1.1.1 This Report is submitted in support of an application by Cadent Gas Limited (hereafter referred to as “the Applicant”) to the Secretary of State (SOS) for a DCO for hydrogen pipeline network and associated infrastructure.
- 1.1.2 The pipeline will safely transport hydrogen gas which meets the low carbon standard set by the Government. Initially the primary source of low carbon hydrogen will be produced by Vertex Hydrogen at the Stanlow Manufacturing Complex near Ellesmere Port, which will be transported to various industrial organisations. The Applicant is in active discussions with other hydrogen producers in relation to transporting additional, low carbon hydrogen gas in the north west. Infrastructure to support such additional hydrogen production would be consented separately
- 1.1.3 The Applicant owns, operates, and maintains the gas distribution network throughout the North West, West Midlands, East Midlands, South Yorkshire, East of England and North London, serving 11 million homes and businesses. In line with this role, the Applicant is responsible for the following activities:
- Looking after the main gas pipe that supplies larger areas, as well as the smaller pipes branching off from it that takes gas to homes and businesses;
 - Maintaining, repairing, and replacing gas pipes to ensure the safe and reliable flow of gas now and long into the future;
 - Managing the National Gas Emergency Service for all gas customers in the UK. If something goes wrong, the Applicant is the first point of call to make sure it is dealt with calmly, quickly and safely;
 - Connecting homes and renewable gas suppliers to its network;
 - Working with local businesses to expand and develop its network; and
 - Providing extra care for those who might need it in a gas emergency.
- 1.1.4 The Applicant does not produce gas and does not own the gas that flows through its pipes. It is solely responsible for its transportation and distribution.

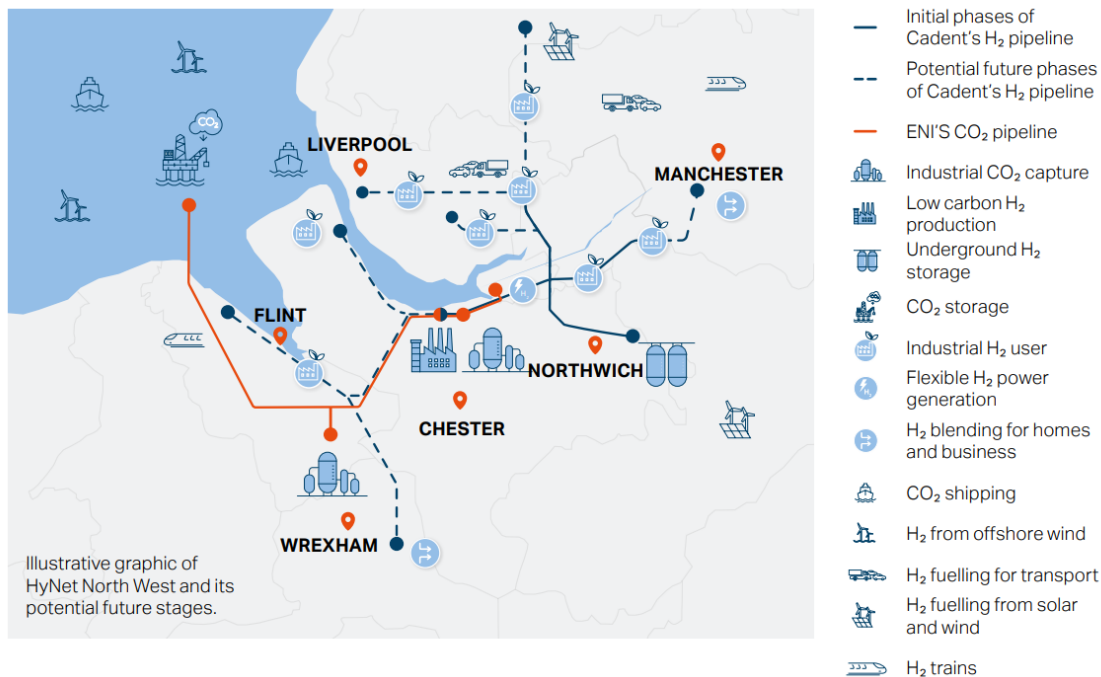
1.2 Background to the Project

- 1.2.1 The HyNet North West Hydrogen Pipeline (the “Project”) will deliver hydrogen to multiple industrial users and power generators in the North West. It will also take hydrogen to gas blending points for introduction into the existing gas network, along with connecting to associated hydrogen storage facilities to help balance the supply and demand on the pipeline.
- 1.2.2 The Project forms part of the wider HyNet North West decarbonisation programme (see **Figure 1.1**) which includes other elements, including a carbon dioxide

pipeline, a hydrogen production facility and underground hydrogen storage. These elements are subject to separate consents and applications and are not being promoted by the Applicant. The elements of the wider programme include:

- Production of hydrogen at the Hydrogen Production Plant (located at Stanlow Refinery) (Current consent status: Resolution to approve);
- Development of Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) infrastructure for capture, transport and storage of carbon dioxide from the Hydrogen Production Plant (as well as existing and new build industrial facilities by Liverpool Bay CCS Ltd (Current consent status: Consent granted March 2024); and
- Development of a Hydrogen Storage Facility (HSF) by Inovyn at underground storage caverns in Cheshire to allow for fluctuations in demand. (Current consent status: application in preparation).

Figure 1.1 - The wider HyNet North West programme and its potential future phases



1.2.3 Before an application for a Development Consent Order (DCO) is made, the Applicant is required to consult with those living in the vicinity of the land proposed for development (under Section 47 of the *Planning Act 2008* (PA 2008)), key local authorities, persons with an interest in the land (PIL) and prescribed statutory bodies, as well as publicising the proposed application (under Section 48 of the PA 2008). The purpose of this document is to describe the consultation that has been undertaken.

1.2.4 The Project's Draft Order Limits are located within the administrative boundary of the following local authorities (the "host authorities"):

- Cheshire East Council;
- Cheshire West and Chester Council;

- Halton Borough Council;
- St Helens Borough Council;
- Trafford Metropolitan Borough Council; and
- Warrington Borough Council.

1.2.5 There are no County Councils who have land within the Draft Order Limits.

1.2.6 Authorities adjacent to the host authorities include:

- Derbyshire County Council
- Flintshire County Council.
- High Peak Borough Council.
- Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council.
- Lancashire County Council.
- Liverpool City Council.
- Manchester City Council.
- Newcastle under Lyme Borough Council.
- Peak District National Park Authority.
- Salford City Council.
- Shropshire Council.
- Staffordshire County Council.
- Staffordshire Moorlands District Council.
- Warrington Borough Council.
- West Lancashire Borough Council.
- Wigan Council.
- Wirral Council.
- Wrexham County Borough Council.

1.3 The Project

1.3.1 The Project will transport low carbon hydrogen produced at the Stanlow Manufacturing Complex near Ellesmere Port to various industrial organisations. The intention is for the Project to also support hydrogen blending stations in Warburton and Partington (near Manchester) through transporting low carbon hydrogen to the existing gas network where it could be blended with methane gas to heat homes and businesses, following a government decision over the next couple of years. The Applicant is also considering green hydrogen production connections for future implementation. The Project will also link to underground

hydrogen storage facilities in Cheshire that will be used to balance supply and demand through the system.

1.3.2 The Project is expected to comprise the following elements:

- The construction, operation and maintenance of approximately 100 kilometres of new pipeline to distribute hydrogen, which includes smaller pipelines (spurs) branching off from the main pipeline route to provide connections to specific industrial off-takers in the region, identified as part of the Project;
- Nine Hydrogen Above Ground Installations (HAGIs) and two Block Valve Installations (BVIs) required to control the flow and pressure of hydrogen at key points along the proposed pipeline;
- Measures for avoiding, minimising and/or mitigating adverse environmental effects likely to arise in connection with the construction and operation of the Project;
- Other related works, for example, temporary access roads, highway works, temporary works compounds, work sites and ancillary works; and
- Compulsory acquisition of land, including interests in land, rights over land and imposition of restrictions, powers to override, suspend or extinguish rights over land and powers for the temporary use of land.

1.3.3 In a small number of locations options have been identified for the routing of the pipeline and for the location of HAGIs. The preferred route and alternative options have been made clear on the consultation plans presented at each stage of consultation. Each is considered fully as the Project progresses.

1.3.4 The proposed pipelines would vary in diameter between approximately six inches and 42 inches dependent on which route or spur they are on. Two main types of pipeline materials are expected to be used, Carbon Steel (CS) and Polyethylene (PE). The pipeline would be buried along the entire route apart from the HAGIs and BVIs, which will include above ground infrastructure.

1.3.5 The pipeline will be located within a Limit of Deviation (LoD). This LoD will be subject to review and potential modification following stakeholder engagement, consultation, engineering, survey work and environmental assessment.

1.3.6 Non-statutory consultation (Stage One Consultation) was undertaken between 26 January 2022 and 11 March 2022 and an initial stage of statutory consultation (Stage Two) was undertaken between 12 September 2022 and 10 November 2022. At the Stage Two Consultation, the Applicant presented updated plans in response to feedback received during the Stage One Consultation. Following the Stage Two Consultation, the Applicant carried out further environmental, engineering and design work, which were presented during the Stage Three Consultation held between 14 October and 19 November 2024. Key changes included:

- New options for the Higher Walton and Partington HAGI;
- Updated BVIs; and

- Modifications, additions and reductions to the area of the Draft Order Limits in response to feedback received at Stage Two Consultation and in subsequent discussions with interested parties.

1.4 Adequacy of Consultation Milestone

- 1.4.1 Updated guidance was published by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) and Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) on 30 April 2024, ‘Planning Act 2008: Pre-application stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects’¹ (the “Guidance”). This replaced the previous guidance published by the Department for Communities and Local Government’s (DCLG) ‘Planning Act 2008: Guidance on the pre-application process’². The Government also published the ‘Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: 2024 Pre-application Prospectus’³ (the “Prospectus”) in May 2024.
- 1.4.2 Paragraph 025 (Reference ID 02-025-20240430) of the Guidance and Paragraph 009 (Reference 1-009-20240516) of the Prospectus set out guidance for an early adequacy of consultation milestone (ACM). In particular:
- The ACM should be early enough to enable applications to consider how to undertake additional engagement that may be required, but sufficiently towards the end of the pre-application stage to assess the consultation that has been undertaken. A suggested period is around 3 months prior to the intended submission date.
 - The applicant must submit a short statement of the elements of consultation which have been carried out compared with the components sets out in the Programme Document and the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC). It should include views and any supporting material from Local Planning Authorities (LPA), if available.
 - The ACM is an informal, but important, milestone that gives the opportunity for the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) to check in on the consultation that has been taken and identify any concerns that may delay acceptance of the application.
- 1.4.3 This Report forms the statement that must be submitted to PINS, setting out:
- Consultation and engagement with LPAs that has been undertaken on the approach to consultation, during all three stages of consultation (**Chapter 2**);
 - Details as to how each stage of consultation was carried out (**Chapter 3**);
 - A summary of how the Project has evolved throughout the pre-application process as a result of the consultation that has been undertaken (**Chapter 4**); and

¹ Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/planning-act-2008-pre-application-stage-for-nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects#pre-application-consultation>

² Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6630afc53579e7a8f398a9b3/150326_Pre-Application_Guidance.pdf

³ Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects-2024-pre-application-prospectus>

- The next steps with regards to consultation, including any supplementary or targeted consultation (**Chapter 5**), and the Applicant welcomes any comments from PINS on the approach undertaken so far.

1.4.4 This Report refers to a number of other documents that the Applicant has prepared. These are:

- Engagement and Consultation Strategy (the “ECS”), prepared for the Stage One Consultation. Separate versions were prepared for each host authority and agreed with them prior to the consultation taking place. Copies of these are available at: **Appendix A**.
- Stage One Non-Statutory Consultation Feedback Report dated July 2022 (the “Stage One NSCFR”), prepared as a summary of the results of the Stage One Consultation. This is available at: [Stage One Non-Statutory Consultation Feedback Report](#)
- Design Evolution Report dated September 2022, which summarises the changes to the Preliminary Order Limits as a result of the Stage One Consultation. This is available at: [Design Evolution Report dated September 2022](#)
- Statement of Community Consultation dated September 2022 (the “Stage Two SoCC”), prepared in compliance with the PA 2008. This is available at: [Statement of Community Consultation dated September 2022](#)
- Stage Two Consultation Summary Report, dated October 2024 (the “Stage Two CSR”), prepared for the Stage Three Consultation as a summary of the feedback provided during the Stage Two Consultation. This is available at: [Stage Two Consultation Summary Report](#)
- Design Evolution Report dated October 2024, which summarises the changes to the Preliminary Order Limits as a result of the Stage Two Consultation. This is available at: [Design Evolution Report dated October 2024](#)
- Statement of Community Consultation dated October 2024 (the “Stage Three SoCC”), prepared in compliance with the PA 2008. This is available at: [Statement of Community Consultation dated October 2024](#)
- Design Evolution Report, which summarises the changes to the Preliminary Order Limits as a result of the Stage Three Consultation. A summary of this is provided in **Section 4.4**, and the full report will be included in the submission package.

2. Consultation and Engagement with LPAs on Approach to Consultation

2.1 Overview of the Applicant's Approach to Consultation throughout the Pre-Application Period

- 2.1.1 It is important to the Applicant that communities, the general public and other stakeholders continue to be involved in the development of the Project throughout the DCO process. Public consultation helps to gather feedback and identify key issues of concern, enabling the Applicant to address these where possible and improve their proposals. Public engagement will continue into the construction phase so that the Applicant can ensure communities are informed of their activities.
- 2.1.2 Pre-application consultation is therefore not just a key requirement of the PA 2008 but a crucial method in raising awareness and understanding about the Project. It also helps to develop a two-way dialogue with local communities and consultees to understand the issues that are important to them.
- 2.1.3 In developing the approach to consultation for the Project, the Applicant has given careful consideration to the specific requirements set out in the following legislation:
- Regulations 42-50 of the PA 2008;
 - *Regulations 12 and 13 The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017* (the "EIA Regulations"); and
 - *Regulations 3 and 4 and Schedule 1 of The Infrastructure Planning (Applications, Prescribed Forms and Procedures) Regulations 2009* (as amended by *The Infrastructure Planning (Miscellaneous Provisions) Regulations 2024*) (the "APFP Regulations").
- 2.1.4 Given the scale and complexity of the Project and taking into account best practice⁴, Government Guidance⁵ on pre-application consultation, and each host authority's Statement of Community Involvement, the Applicant undertook a three-stage consultation:
- **Stage One Consultation - Non-Statutory Consultation:** The non-statutory consultation on the emerging plans and preferred route corridors for the Project took place between 26 January 2022 and 11 March 2022. The consultation was undertaken at a formative stage in the project development process, to

⁴ In line with the Gunning Principles, the three-stage consultation began at an early stage of the Project's development, and each stage took the results of the previous consultation into account. The Applicant initially considered a two-stage consultation would provide sufficient opportunity for consultees and the public to feedback, a third stage was undertaken given the extent of amendments to the Project.

⁵ At the time of the Stage One and Stage Two Consultations, the relevant guidance was DCLG's 'Planning Act 2008: Guidance on the pre-application process'. At the time of Stage Three, the relevant guidance was MHCLG and DLUHC's 'Planning Act 2008: Pre-application stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects'.

provide consultees with an early opportunity to influence the proposals while options were still undergoing consideration.

- **Stage Two Consultation - Statutory Consultation:** The second stage of consultation comprised the first statutory consultation on the Applicant's proposed application in accordance with the requirements of the PA 2008. This took place between 12 September 2022 and 10 November 2022.
- **Stage Three Consultation – Statutory Consultation:** The third stage of consultation comprised the second statutory consultation on the amended proposed application in accordance with the requirements of the PA 2008. This consultation ran from 14 October 2024 to 19 November 2024.

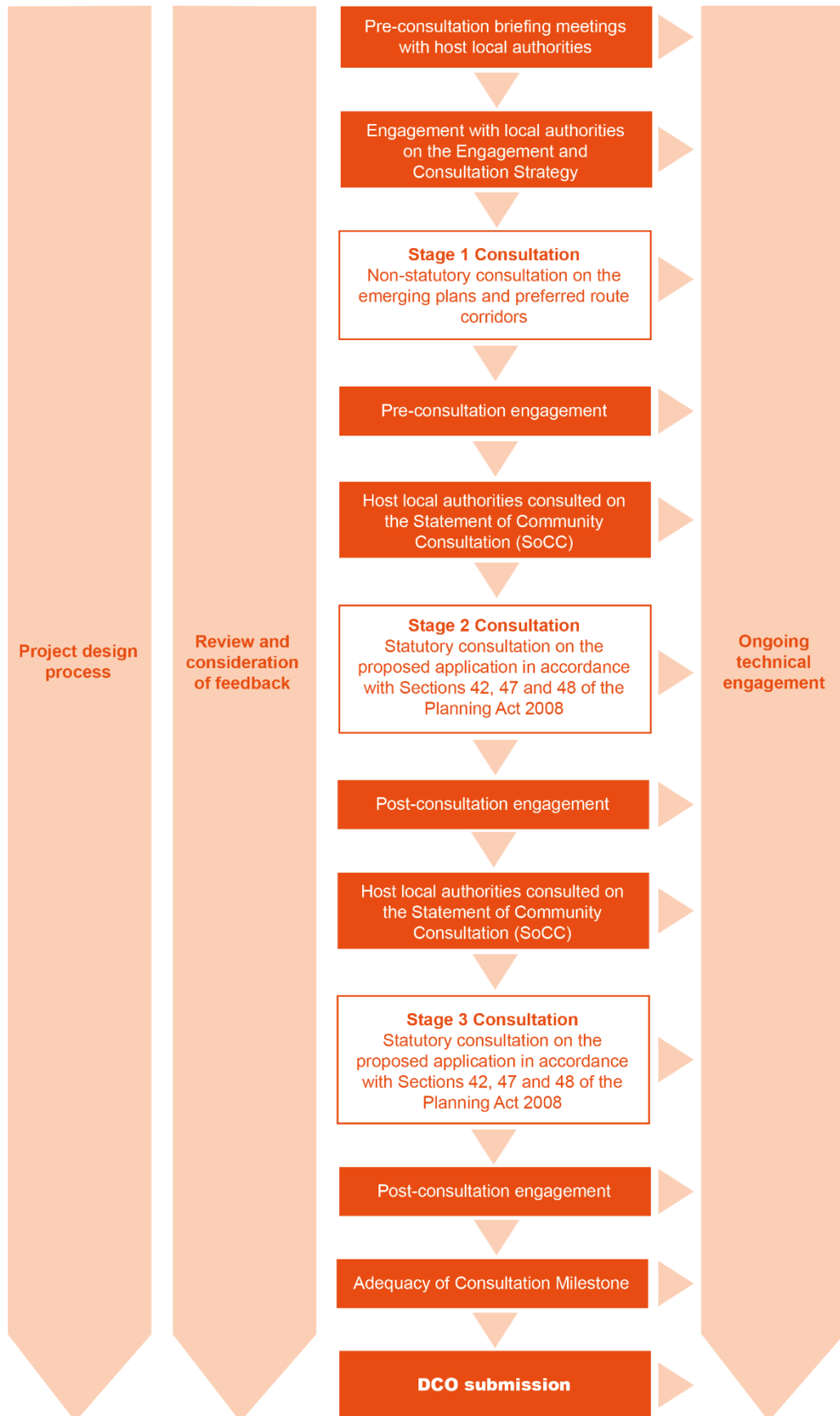
2.1.5 The Stage One Consultation informed the approach to the Stage Two Consultation, both of which informed the approach to Stage Three Consultation.

2.1.6 The multi-stage iterative approach outlined above complies with paragraph 70 of the (now revoked) DCLG Guidance⁶, which refers to the need to manage the tension between consulting early and having proposals that are firm enough to enable consultees to comment. Although revoked, it was applicable at the time of the Stage One and Stage Two Consultations and allowed the refinement of the Project at each stage (including Stage Three) through a design, evaluation and assessment process that takes into account consultee feedback.

2.1.7 The timeline in **Figure 2.1** sets out the main stages of the pre-application process, including key statutory and non-statutory consultation, engagement and publicity that the Applicant has carried out on the Project.

⁶ Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6630afc53579e7a8f398a9b3/150326_Pre-Application_Guidance.pdf

Figure 2.1 - Pre-application consultation process



UK037044.2103-engagement flow chart.ai - UKBLB775

2.2 Non-Statutory Stage One Approach to Consultation

Overview of the Applicant's approach to the non-statutory Stage One Consultation

- 2.2.1 The Applicant is committed to delivering projects that are as inclusive as possible and places equality, diversity and inclusion at the heart of business planning and decision-making. Consultation activities were therefore planned to be accessible and inclusive, to ensure that the Applicant engages with as wide a demographic as possible.
- 2.2.2 The Applicant sought to achieve this through a variety of methods. These included raising awareness of the Project across the North West region (using online, in print and mail notification and advertising methods), clearly explaining the Project and its role in the context of the wider HyNet project and providing easy access to the consultation with materials written in plain English on the project website, at selected information points with high footfall and at in-person and online events.
- 2.2.3 To provide a framework for accessible and inclusive consultation, an Engagement and Consultation Strategy (the "ECS") was produced (**Appendix A**). This set out details of the proposed approach to non-statutory and statutory consultation and considered the requirements of the PA 2008, Government guidance (as set out in Footnote 3), the Government's Consultation Principles (2018) and the Gunning Principles. The Gunning Principles are that:
- Consultation must take place when the proposal is still at a formative stage.
 - Sufficient reasons must be put forward for the proposal to allow for intelligent consideration and response.
 - Adequate time must be given for consideration and response.
 - The product of consultation must be conscientiously taken into account.

Digital-first approach

- 2.2.4 To provide broad reach and maximise accessibility for those living and working in the area, and to safeguard the consultation against COVID-19 outbreaks or changes to guidance and/or rules, a digital first consultation was undertaken.
- 2.2.5 Online activities were optimised to support access from mobile devices, such as phone, tablet and desktop devices. This approach also aligned with the PINS guidance at the time⁷, which was updated in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and guidance from Government.
- 2.2.6 The Applicant also recognised that there were likely to be some people who preferred to engage offline, and as such held eight in-person events across North West England.

⁷ PINS, 'Advice Note Fourteen: Compiling the Consultation Report' (updated February 2021)
<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/legislation-and-advice/advice-notes/advice-note-fourteen-compiling-the-consultation-report/>

2.2.7 Details on the online and in-person activities are provided in **Section 2.7** of the Stage One NSCFR (as presented at **Paragraph 1.4.4** of this Report).

Developing the consultation approach

2.2.8 In advance of the consultation, pre-consultation briefing meetings took place with the host authorities, as set out in **Table 2.1**. These meetings were an opportunity to introduce the Project, its role in decarbonising local industrial emitters, and provide insight into the Applicant's proposed approach to consultation.

Table 2.1 - Dates of pre-consultation briefing meetings with host authorities

Host Authority	Meeting Date
Cheshire West and Chester Council	8 November 2021
Cheshire East Council	23 November 2021
Trafford Council	24 November 2021
Halton Borough Council	9 December 2021
St Helens Council	13 December 2021
Warrington Borough Council	13 January 2022
All-authority briefing ahead of consultation, attended by Cheshire East Council, St Helens Council, Warrington Borough Council and Trafford Council	20 January 2022

2.2.9 To help inform development of the ECS, each host authority was provided with a bespoke briefing note detailing proposed consultation activities in its area and comments or changes to the proposed approach invited. Each of these notes can be found at **Appendix A**.

Feedback from LPAs and changes adopted

2.2.10 Three host authorities responded to the briefing note providing comment, available at **Appendix B**. These responses helped refine the approach ahead of the start of the consultation period, including the identification of local community groups, locations for information, and a new event venue for St Helens at the World of Glass, as set out in **Table 2.2**. compliance with the final ECS is considered in **Paragraphs 3.1.15-3.1.16** of this report.

Table 2.2 - Feedback received on the ECS and the Applicant's responses

Comment Raised	Response
St Helens Council requested to see copies of the consultation material prior to the consultation.	The Applicant considered that specific materials should not be shared prior to the consultation. This ensured an appropriate space between the promoter and the host authority, and ensured a consistent approach across the Project area, with each host authority being

Comment Raised	Response
	provided the material at the same time and encouraging comments during the consultation period.
St Helens Council provided contact details for the Library Services Manager and advised contact with them to identify a suitable venue for drop-in events and the display of materials in the host authority area. They also requested that the Communications Manager be copied into all correspondence.	The Applicant engaged with the Library Services Manager and agreed on the World of Glass as a suitable location to hold the drop-in event on Thursday 24 February 2022. The Applicant also confirmed that reference locations would be used in the host authority area, and that the Communications Manager would be liaised with.
St Helens Council requested further detail on the intended coverage area of the consultation material.	The Applicant confirmed that all residential and business addresses within the route corridor would be written to directly, and that they would contact community representatives of these areas (ward members, MPs, Parish Councils). The Applicant confirmed that wider press/social media activities would take place to raise awareness of the Project beyond this area, and that the website would be accessible to all.
St Helens Council requested further definition of the route corridor.	The Applicant confirmed they would issue a shapefile of the route corridor to the host authority.
St Helens Council suggested the use of the St Helens Star for the press release.	The Applicant confirmed they would consider the use of this newspaper. In the end, the Applicant considered that the newspapers identified provided sufficient coverage and publicity and so the use of the St Helens Star was not necessary.
Warrington Borough Council suggested the use of a key in the submitted information to clearly identify different components.	The Applicant included the use of keys and signposting of key components of the Project on the material presented at the consultation.
Warrington Borough Council suggested separate briefing sessions be held with affected ward councillors and Parish Councils.	The Applicant considered that additional briefing meetings were not necessary, and that ward councillors and Parish Councils had the opportunity to provide comment during the consultation process.
Warrington Borough Council requested information on contingency details should COVID-19 restrictions be put in place that limit the ability of in-person consultation events.	The Applicant confirmed that the consultation took a digital-first approach in case of any COVID-19 disruption, with two online events for people unable to or uncomfortable with attending in-person events.
Warrington Borough Council advised that they would not publicise the consultation as it was non-statutory, but found it useful to signpost the details of the consultation to politicians and residents and input into the consultation themselves.	The Applicant noted this and welcomed the comments. No change was necessary.
Warrington Borough Council suggested information should be provided on the route determination process, including need, health and safety, and visual amenity matters.	The Route Corridor Report was published as part of the consultation, which provided a detailed overview of the approach to routing and siting of the Project.

Comment Raised	Response
Cheshire West and Chester Council suggested the use of Northwich Guardian for publicising the consultation.	The Applicant confirmed the intention to publicise in the Northwich Guardian.
Cheshire West and Chester Council suggested the use of Wyvern House as a location for providing reference hard copies of consultation material.	
Cheshire West and Chester Council suggested that Northwich Memorial Court as a suitable venue, with appropriate access and parking that captures the wider Northwich area.	The Applicant considered that the identified locations of Anderton Village Hall and St John's Church Centre in Northwich were appropriate to the corridor route presented at this consultation and were sufficiently accessible.
<p>Cheshire West and Chester Council suggested the inclusion of the following stakeholders in the consultation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Northwich BID Project Manager. ● Town Clerk, Northwich Town Council. ● Town and Parish Councils. ● Cheshire West and Chester Councillors. ● Northwich Rotary. ● Hartford golf club. ● Winnington Park Rec Club. ● Winnington Garden Centre. ● Victoria Infirmary. ● GP surgeries. ● Winnington Firdale Medical Centre. ● Barnton Oakwood Medical Centre. ● Winnington Park Primary and Nursery School. ● Barnton Library. ● Weaverham Library. ● Sandiway Library. ● Barnton Memorial Hall. ● FOAM (Friend of Anderton and Marbury). 	The Applicant welcomed the suggestion of these stakeholders and confirmed that Town and Parish Councils, Councillors, the Northwich Rotary, Hartford golf club, Winnington Park Rec Club, Winnington Garden Centre, Victoria Infirmary, Winnington Firdale Medical Centre, Barnton Oakwood Medical Centre, Winnington Park Primary and Nursery School, Barnton Library, Barnton Memorial Hall and FOAM would be notified of the consultation.

2.3 Statutory Stage Two SoCC Consultation

Overview of the Applicant's approach to statutory Stage Two Consultation

- 2.3.1 In accordance with Section 47(1) of the PA 2008, the Applicant prepared a SoCC setting out how it proposed to consult about its proposed application, with people living in the vicinity of the land.
- 2.3.2 As part of its preparation, and in accordance with Section 47(2), the Applicant consulted with the host authorities (identified in **Paragraph 1.2.4**) on the approach to and content of the draft SoCC. This consultation was held between 21 June 2022 and 22 July 2022, a period of 32 days.
- 2.3.3 This ensured that the Applicant understood how consultation might best be undertaken with those affected communities and that their views could be taken into account when finalising the proposals for the Project.

Feedback from LPAs and changes adopted

- 2.3.4 Feedback on the draft SoCC was received from all six host authorities and was considered by the Applicant as part of finalising the approach to the consultation. A summary of the feedback received and the changes that were made to the draft SoCC is presented in **Table 2.3**, with more detail provided in the Stage Two SoCC (**Paragraphs 4.5.7-4.5.12**).

Table 2.3 - Feedback received on the Stage Two Consultation draft SoCC and the Applicant's responses

Comment Raised	Response
Requests were received for the inclusion of identified prescribed consultees, local groups and organisations, ward councillors and other wider stakeholders as consultees.	The Applicant confirmed the statutory consultation would be conducted in line with the requirements of the PA 2008, including consulting with the relevant prescribed consultees as well as the wider consultees suggested.
A suggestion was also received that Warrington Borough Council's Employment and Development Team should also be consulted.	The Applicant engaged with Warrington Borough Council's Employment and Development Team and requested that Warrington Borough Council coordinate comments from their various departments into a single response.
Comments were received which suggested that the 100m Consultation Zone around the pipeline should be widened to ensure nearby communities which might be indirectly impacted by the development were included.	The Applicant extended the Consultation Zone from 100m to 200m around pipelines and other temporary works (including construction compounds and their access points).
Suggestions were received that virtual consultation events should be organised if in-person events could not take place.	The Applicant proposed that should any in-person events need to be cancelled, the most appropriate mitigation (such as expanding the number of webinars) would be identified on a case-by-case basis in consultation with the relevant local planning authorities.

Comment Raised	Response
Recommendations were received that events should be held at various times to account for working families and harder to reach groups.	The Applicant agreed the importance of offering opportunities for people to engage with the consultation and considered that the in-person consultation events and online webinars were scheduled on a range of days and time slots to allow people greater opportunity to attend. The Applicant further considered that the project website provided all information for those who could not attend the events, and that a phonenumber and email address would be made available for people to contact the project team. No changes were required in the SoCC as a result of these recommendations.
A request was received that the address of the Milner Church Institute be changed to state Runcorn as the post town rather than Warrington,	The Applicant updated the address of the Milner Church Institute.
Feedback from the communities engaged showed general support for the proposed consultation approach, including the locations of consultation events and information points, the provision of an online virtual exhibition, the use of press, newspaper advertisements and press releases.	The Applicant welcomed these comments and as a result, no changes to the SoCC were required.
Requests were received for additional consultation events to take place in Warrington and Elton.	The Applicant responded that sufficient opportunities to provide feedback were provided to these communities by the planned consultation events close to the route at Warrington Football Club and Frodsham Community Centre, respectively, in addition to the project website and virtual exhibition.
Requests were received for Chester Lane Community Centre Library and Thatto Heath Library to be included as Information Points.	The Applicant updated the SoCC to include Chester Lane Community Centre Library and Thatto Health library as Information Points for the consultation.
The proposed approach to reaching hard to reach groups was generally supported by communities. It was also recommended to the Applicant that this should include reaching out to young persons, including schools and colleges.	The Applicant welcomed the support and confirmed use of gatekeeper organisations to identify hard to reach/seldom heard groups (including young persons) and confirmed that it will engage with those identified at an early stage. No changes to the SoCC were required as a result.
Suggestion was received that gatekeeper organisations be notified by email in advance of the launch of the consultation to give sufficient time for needs to be understood and properly planned.	The Applicant confirmed that emails to gatekeeper organisations would be sent four weeks in advance of the launch of consultations. Gatekeeper organisations contacted are set out in Appendix D of the Stage Two SoCC (available on the project website).
Comments were received suggesting that press notices also be sent to Runcorn and Widnes World, Runcorn Weekly news, Place North West and St Helens Star.	In response, the Applicant issued a press release to the identified publications.
A suggestion was also received that use of social media be considered to reach younger groups of the community	In response, the Applicant promoted the consultation through its existing social media channels, alongside digital advertising via Google and Spotify.

Comment Raised	Response
	Social media adverts were placed on the Applicant's Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter accounts.
A request was received that Councils be kept informed of any planned consultation activities	The Applicant confirmed that the Councils would be notified of the launch of statutory consultation via email.
Suggestion was received that Project Preliminary Order Limits/Red Line Boundary and Consultation Zone be provided in sections to aid understanding of project impact and include identifying features, such as the search areas for the above ground assets.	The Applicant considered that the Preliminary Order Limits/ Red Line Boundary and Consultation Zone would be included in the statutory consultation materials and as such no changes to the SoCC were required.

Final SoCC

- 2.3.5 Following consultation with the host authorities, the SoCC was updated to incorporate changes to the wording, tone and content as suggested and set out in **Table 2.2**.

Revised SoCC

- 2.3.6 Following the death of Her Majesty the Queen and the subsequent period of National Mourning, the SoCC was revised in consultation with the host authorities. The Applicant took the decision to extend the consultation period and delay the dates of the exhibition events until after official mourning had been completed.
- 2.3.7 The Applicant and its consultants held a meeting with the host authorities on 16 September 2022 to discuss the required changes to the SoCC and confirm their agreement with the revised approach. A copy of the updated SoCC (the Stage Two SoCC, available on the project website), was subsequently issued to the host authorities following the meeting and published in line with the regulatory requirements. The key change to the SoCC was the inclusion of a preface outlining the changes and the associated reasons.
- 2.3.8 In addition to the revised SoCC, the Applicant issued new postcards, posters, press releases, newspaper notices and notified all stage one participants of the changes. More detail of the changes is provided in the Preface of the Stage Two SoCC.

Compliance with s55 checklist

- 2.3.9 Section 55 of the PA 2008 sets out the circumstances under which the SoS may accept an application for development consent. Following acceptance, an application will be subject to an examination pursuant to Sections 86 to 102B of the PA 2008.
- 2.3.10 The 'Section 55 checklist' is a document prepared by PINS on behalf of the SoS upon submission of an application. Completion of the Section 55 checklist by an applicant is not a requirement under Regulation 5 of the APFP Regulations, nor

does the submission of a draft completed Section 55 checklist by the Applicant hold any weight at the acceptance stage.

- 2.3.11 However, the Applicant considers that the submission of a 'draft' Section 55 checklist can assist PINS with the compliance check at the acceptance stage by signposting to relevant Application documents or parts within Application documents.
- 2.3.12 Therefore, the Applicant has decided to complete the Section 55 checklist for the Application, where it relates to Sections 42, 45, 46, 47, 48 and 49 of the PA 2008 (i.e. from Question 6 to Question 24).
- 2.3.13 The completed checklist for the Statutory Stage Two consultation can be found at **Appendix C**. Questions 14 and 15 relate to the statutory requirement to consult relevant local authorities in the creation of the SoCC. This confirms compliance with Sections 47(2), 47(3) and 47(5) of the PA 2008.

2.4 Statutory Stage Three SoCC consultation

Overview of the Applicant's approach to the statutory Stage Three Consultation

- 2.4.1 Given the scale and complexity of the Project and following updates to the design, the Applicant decided to undertake a third stage of consultation to continue the involvement of the community, general public and other stakeholders in the development of the Project. As such, a third stage of consultation was held from 14 October to 19 November 2024, known as the Stage Three Consultation.
- 2.4.2 Section 47(2) of the PA 2008 provides that before preparing the SoCC, the Applicant must consult each host authority about what is to be included within the SoCC. In accordance with the PA 2008, each host authority (listed in **Paragraph 1.2.4**) was consulted on 08 July 2024 as part of the development of the SoCC, and their views taken into consideration as part of a 28-day consultation period which ran from 09 July 2024 to 06 August 2024. Comments received from St Helens Council after this period were accepted.

Feedback from LPAs and changes adopted

- 2.4.3 Email reminders were issued to each host authority prior to the identified deadline to remind them to respond, should they wish. Feedback on the draft SoCC was received from three host authorities (Cheshire East Council, Warrington Borough Council and St Helens Borough Council) and was considered by the Applicant as part of finalising the approach to the consultation. A summary of the feedback received and the changes that were made to the draft SoCC is presented in **Table 2.4**, with more detail being provided in the Consultation Report submitted as part of the Application.

Table 2.4 - Feedback received on the Stage Three Consultation draft SoCC and the Applicant's responses

Comment Raised	Response
Comments received confirming that Cheshire East Council were happy with the scope of the consultation, the organisations consulted and the locations of the consultation events.	The Applicant welcomed these comments and as a result, no changes to the SoCC were required.
Comments received raising difficulties in understanding which parties were consulted under Sections 42, 44 and 47 of the PA 2008 versus those that the Applicant voluntarily consulted.	The Applicant confirmed in the SoCC Section 4.3, clarifying those that were consulted under statutory requirements vs those consulted in addition to those requirements (Paragraph 4.3.12).
Clarification that Sustrans and Active Travel England should be considered statutory consultees.	The Applicant agrees that these two parties should be consulted and amended the list of Local and Special Interest Groups provided at Appendix C of the SoCC to include them.
Suggestion that an in-person consultation event should be held in central Warrington.	The Applicant responded that sufficient opportunities to provide feedback were provided to these communities by the planned consultation events close to the route at Warrington Football Club and Frodsham Community Centre, respectively, in addition to the project website and virtual exhibition.
Clarification sought on whether virtual consultation events would be held to replace any cancelled in-person events.	The Applicant confirmed that, should any in-person event be cancelled, they would engage on a case-by-case basis with the relevant LPA as to the best mitigation, acknowledging that additional online events would be an efficient way. No change to the SoCC required as this was covered in Paragraph 4.4.13.
Suggestion that the following parties be consulted: Canal and River Trust, Warrington Borough Council's Director of Environment & Transport, Parish Councils in the areas affected, the Trans Pennine Trail, United Utilities, Warrington Borough Council's Employment Development Team; Warrington Borough Council Property Department; and the Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service.	The Applicant confirmed that the Canal and River Trust, the Trans Pennine Trail, Warrington Borough Council's Employment Development Team; Warrington Borough Council Property Department; and the Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service were to be consulted, and Appendix C of the SoCC was amended to add them in.
Clarification that the Warrington and Cheshire LEP changed name to Enterprise Cheshire and Warrington.	The Applicant amended the SoCC to reflect this change.
Comments that hard copy feedback forms should be provided at the information points and that the SoCC be updated to reflect that.	The Applicant confirmed that paper feedback forms would be available on request and could be submitted via Freepost or email. SoCC was amended to include feedback forms and the SoCC as hard copies available at the Information points.
Correction that a reference to Stage Two Consultation should be Stage Three Consultation.	SoCC amended to reflect this correction.

Comment Raised	Response
Comments received that St Helens Borough Council welcomes the use of locations with the Borough for consultation events and the use of the St Helens Star Newspaper is to be used for the statutory notices and press releases.	The Applicant welcomed these comments and as a result, no changes to the SoCC were required.
Suggestions to remove the following from the list of consultees: Liverpool City Region Local Enterprise Partnership and the St Helens Chamber.	SoCC amended to remove these consultees.

Final SoCC

- 2.4.4 Following consultation with the host authorities, the SoCC was updated to incorporate changes to the wording, and content suggested, as set out in **Table 2.3**. Compliance with the SoCC is considered at **Paragraphs 3.3.21-3.3.22**.

Compliance with s55 Checklist

- 2.4.5 The Applicant has prepared a separate Section 55 checklist for the Stage Three Consultation, in line with the approach set out in **Paragraphs 2.3.7 - 2.3.11**, intended to assist PINS with the compliance check at the acceptance stage by signposting to relevant Application documents or parts within Application documents.
- 2.4.6 The completed checklist for the Statutory Stage Three Consultation can be found at **Appendix D**, with Questions 14 and 15 relevant to the statutory requirement to consult relevant local authorities in the creation of the SoCC. This confirms compliance with Sections 47(2), 47(3) and 47(5) of the PA 2008.

3. Approach to Pre Application consultation

3.1 Non-Statutory Stage One Consultation

Purpose of the consultation

3.1.1 The purpose of the Stage One Consultation was to:

- Introduce the Applicant and their ambition to deliver a hydrogen pipeline and technology to the region;
- Obtain feedback on the route corridors, within which the pipeline could be routed, and search areas, within which the HAGIs could be located;
- Provide information on how the Project will work in delivering hydrogen to industrial and residential users, and its position in the wider context of the HyNet North West low carbon cluster;
- Ensure people know how to receive information on the Project both during and outside of the consultation period;
- Inform and prepare consultees ahead of Statutory Stage Two Consultation, which was anticipated to take place Autumn 2022; and
- Seek comments on any other matters relating to the Project that consultees consider relevant.

3.1.2 The information provided at the Stage One Consultation (available on the project website) included:

- A Consultation Brochure, which provided an overview of the Project at that stage and how people could feedback into the consultation.
- An interactive map of the Project.
- The EIA Scoping Report, written to support a request by the Applicant for a written Scoping Opinion from PINS to inform the EIA for the Project.
- The EIA Scoping Opinion issued by PINS (ref. EN060006).
- A Route Corridor Report, which presented the outputs of the routeing and siting work which had been undertaken to identify the corridors in which the pipeline and some connection spurs would be located, along with potential locations for the HAGIs required along the pipeline route.
- A brochure that explained how the construction of the pipeline would occur, using open trenching and trenchless methods.

3.1.3 The feedback received to the Stage One Consultation informed the design and development of the Project. The defined pipeline route and locations for the HAGIs and other above ground infrastructure would be subject to consultation as part of the Statutory Stage Two consultation.

When the consultation took place

3.1.4 The Stage One Consultation launched at 00:01 on 26 January 2022 and ran until 23:59 on 11 March 2022, a period of 45 days.

Where the consultation took place

3.1.5 The consultation was undertaken with an identified Consultation Zone around the area of the Project but was not geographically restricted to respondents in this area.

3.1.6 The Consultation Zone was defined broadly as comprising all residential and commercial addresses within the route corridor, including associated spurs and search areas. In several locations the project team revised this zone to include addresses outside the route corridor that may still experience some impact because of the proposals.

3.1.7 A map of the Consultation Zone is included in Appendix C of the Stage One NSCFR, available on the project website⁸.

Who was consulted and short summary of feedback received with links to the relevant Consultation Report

3.1.8 The consultation was open to all and widely publicised via email, postcards, print/digital advertising, and social media. Notification of the consultation period was particularly targeted at specific local stakeholders and groups including:

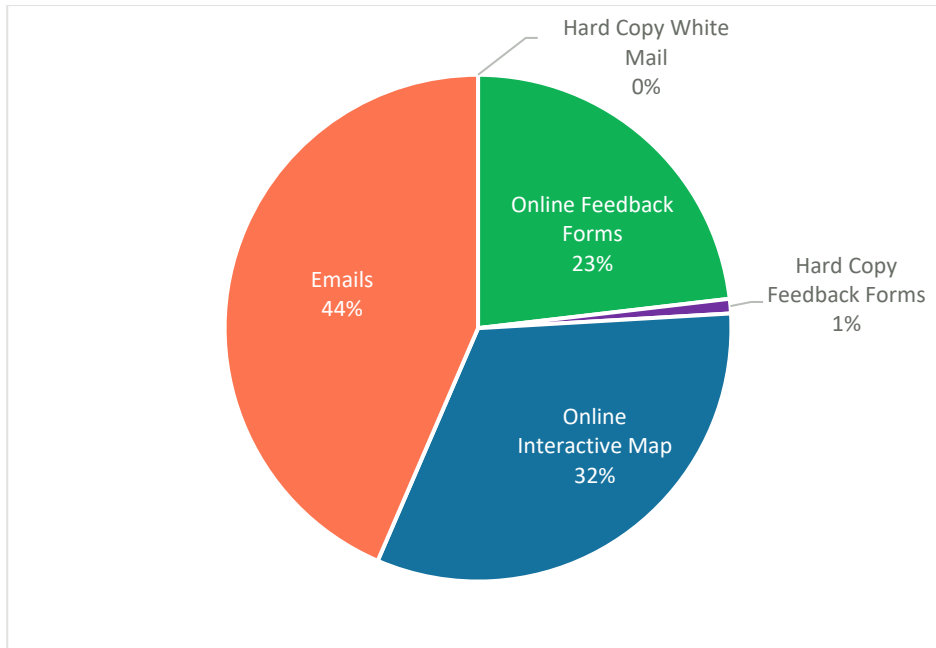
- **Local communities and elected representatives:** Households and businesses in the defined Consultation Zone and their elected representatives (including MPs, councillors, and parish councils). This included landowners whose land may be affected by the Project (in addition to other activities – such as land referencing – already taking place).
- **Special and local interest groups:** Special interest groups, such as wildlife trusts, professional bodies, pressure groups, and organisations who may be interested in the proposals because of their area of knowledge or specialism (for example, local historical societies, conservation groups or charities).
- **Seldom heard groups:** Representatives of people considered seldom heard. Examples of groups considered seldom heard include young people, old people, people with physical disabilities or learning difficulties, and people for whom English is not their first language. During the consultation, the project team sought to identify interested parties to include in future engagement.
- **Prescribed consultees:** Although the Stage One Consultation was non-statutory, a range of consultees drawn from the list in Schedule 1 of the APFP Regulations were contacted. This included statutory bodies such as Natural England, Historic England and the Environment Agency as well as the Parish Councils.

⁸ [Knowledge hub - HyNet North West Hydrogen Pipeline](#)

- 3.1.9 In addition, a wide range of community and other non-statutory stakeholders were identified and notified of the consultation.
- 3.1.10 More detail on the notification methods is provided at Section 2.6 of the Stage One NSCFR, and in summary:
- Postcards were distributed to 15,402 residential and commercial addresses within the Consultation Zone.
 - Emails were issued to prescribed consultees, nine Members of Parliament, the six host authorities, and 44 Parish Councils.
 - An advertising campaign took place in print and digital media, and Google search advertising.
- 3.1.11 Appendix B of the Stage One NSCFR provides a detailed list of those stakeholders notified at this stage.

Feedback received

- 3.1.12 A total of 108 pieces of feedback were received during the consultation period. All were coded and analysed in line with the approach detailed in the Stage One NSCFR (available on the project website) and were reported on as valid consultation responses.
- 3.1.13 Representations were received from local authorities, national and local organisations, PILs, and the local community. One late response was received from Lower Peover Parish Council.
- 3.1.14 The feedback comprised:
- Online via the interactive feedback map - 35
 - Online via the feedback form - 25
 - Email feedback - 47
 - Hard copy feedback forms - 1
 - Hard copy white mail (letters received via FREEPOST) - 0

Figure 3.1 - Pre-application consultation process

Compliance with the approach to consultation

- 3.1.15 In accordance with the DCLG Guidance and to encourage participation in the consultation, a range of methods and techniques were used. These ensured that the various consultees identified above, and all sections of the community that could be affected by the Project, could be involved in the process.
- 3.1.16 **Appendix A** provides the consultation strategy presented to the host authorities and the comments received. The Applicant has compiled the list of commitments that were made and demonstrated how they complied with those commitments (including the requested amendments from the host authorities, as set out in **Table 2.2**), available at **Appendix E**.

3.2 Statutory Stage Two Consultation

Purpose of the consultation

- 3.2.1 The Stage Two Consultation provided consultees with a further opportunity to understand, comment on and influence the proposals prior to submission of the application. The consultation also provided opportunity for consultees to attend public exhibitions and speak to members of the project team. The consultation also provided more opportunities to increase awareness about the Project.
- 3.2.2 The consultation focused on sharing how proposals had developed following the Stage One Consultation and how feedback had been taken account of and incorporated into the Project and the Preliminary Order Limits. Views were also sought on some remaining route and HAGI options and any emerging preferences for the Project and its delivery.
- 3.2.3 The information provided at the Stage Two Consultation (available on the project website) included:

- The Stage Two SoCC.
- A Consultation Brochure, which provided an updated summary of the Project and how people could provide feedback.
- The interactive map on the project website remained available.
- Copies of the section 47 and 48 notices.
- The Design Evolution Report, which provided background to and summarised the need for the Project. It also describes the different options and alternatives considered before arriving at the proposals outlined in this brochure.
- The Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) and supporting documents (including a Non-Technical Summary), which set out the environmental assessments undertaken to date, explained what was proposed to be constructed and where, as well as the decisions which had been taken in developing the proposals. Views were sought during the consultation on the information contained in the PEIR and its supporting documents.

When the consultation took place

- 3.2.4 The Stage Two Consultation was due to take place over a 42-day period from 00:01 on Monday 12 September 2022 to 23:59 on Monday 24 October 2022. Due to the death of Her Majesty the Queen, the decision was taken by the Applicant to delay the consultation events and extend the statutory consultation until 10 November 2022. This decision was made on the basis that Her Majesty the Queen was a patron of the Institution of Gas Engineers & Managers and to allow staff, stakeholders, and potential consultees to pay their respects.
- 3.2.5 As a result of this, the Stage Two SoCC (Section 4.2) was updated to reflect this change to the consultation period. A copy of the updated SoCC was issued to the six host authorities following a meeting with them to discuss and agree the changes, held on 16 September 2022. The Applicant issued new postcards, posters, press releases, newspaper notices and notified all stage one participants of the changes. More detail of the changes is provided in the Preface of the Stage Two SoCC.
- 3.2.6 The Stage Two Consultation subsequently took place for 43 days from Thursday 29 September 2022 to Thursday 10 November 2022. This exceeds the statutory minimum period of 28 days for statutory consultation specified by the PA 2008 whilst respectfully accounting for the mourning period.

Where the consultation took place

- 3.2.7 The Stage Two Consultation was open to anyone that had a view that they wished the Applicant to consider (as was the case for the Stage One Consultation).
- 3.2.8 A Consultation Zone was developed based on the Project's initial route corridors, which were used to inform the zone used during the Stage One Consultation. The Consultation Zone was reviewed and extended a minimum of 300m from where the Applicant was considering locations for above ground installations - HAGIs and BVIs. Similarly, for the pipeline and other temporary works including construction

compounds and access points, the Consultation Zone was extended to ensure that it is a minimum of 200m from where the Applicant may decide to locate them.

- 3.2.9 The Consultation Zone was also extended to include the community of Elton, and the western extent of Moulton, in response to feedback from the host authorities. The Consultation Zone was also increased to include additional properties in Frodsham.
- 3.2.10 To ensure that all those consulted during the Stage One Consultation were notified of the Stage Two Consultation, and information relating to project changes, the Zone was further extended to include the route corridors identified at the previous stage of consultation. This included the route option to the north of Northwich (South Option 2), which was discounted after the Stage One consultation.

Who was consulted and short summary of feedback received with links to the relevant Consultation Report

- 3.2.11 At the same time as consulting the local community, the Applicant consulted a wide range of statutory consultees on the Project, in accordance with Section 42 of the PA 2008. These were identified with consideration of Advice Note Three: EIA Notification and Consultation and its associated Annex. These include:
- Host and neighbouring local authorities;
 - Prescribed consultees (such as Natural England and Environment Agency); and,
 - People with an interest in land that might be affected by the proposals.

Local authorities

- 3.2.12 In accordance with Section 42(1)(b) of the PA 2008, the following local authorities were consulted.

Table 3.1 - Local authorities consulted during the Stage Two Consultation

Section 43 Grouping	Description	Local authorities
A	A neighbouring authority that shares a boundary with a unitary council or lower tier district council within whose area the development is situated (an adjacent authority).	Derbyshire County Council Flintshire County Council High Peak Borough Council Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council Lancashire County Council Liverpool City Council Manchester City Council Newcastle under Lyme Borough Council Peak District National Park Authority Salford City Council Shropshire Council Staffordshire County Council Staffordshire Moorlands District Council West Lancashire Borough Council Wigan Council Wirral Council

Section 43 Grouping	Description	Local authorities
		Wrexham County Borough Council
B	Either a unitary council or lower tier district council in which the development is situated (a host authority).	Cheshire East Council Cheshire West and Chester Council Halton Borough Council St Helens Borough Council Trafford Metropolitan Borough Council Warrington Borough Council

Persons with an interest in land

- 3.2.1 In accordance with Section 42(1)(d) of the PA 2008, persons with an interest in land (PIL) were consulted, as set out below:
- Category 1 – an owner, lessee, tenant or occupier of the land;
 - Category 2 – a person interested in the land or has power to sell and convey the land or to release the land; and
 - Category 3 – a person who would or might be entitled to make a claim under Section 10 of the *Compulsory Purchase Act 1965* or Part 1 of the *Land Compensation Act 1973* or Section 152(3) of the PA 2008.
- 3.2.2 More detail on the consultation of PILs is provided in Paragraphs 4.5.4 - 4.5.6 of the Stage Two CSR (as provided at **Paragraph 1.4.4** of this Report).

EIA Consultation

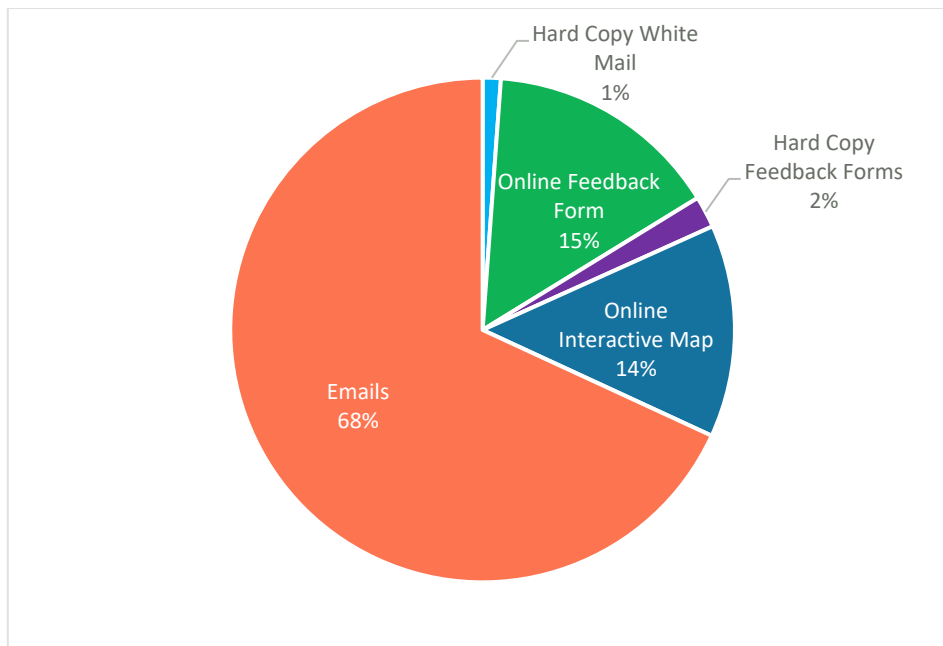
- 3.2.3 The Project falls within the provisions of Schedule 1 (16)(a) of the EIA Regulations as the pipeline for transporting hydrogen gas has a diameter of more than 800 millimetres and a length of more than 40km. As a result of this, the Project automatically requires an EIA.
- 3.2.4 The requirement to consult on preliminary environmental information is set out in Regulation 12(1)(b) of the EIA Regulations. Preliminary environmental information is defined in the EIA Regulation as: information referred to in Part 1 of Schedule 4 (information for inclusion in environmental statements); which, (a) has been compiled by the applicant; and (b) is reasonably required to assess the environmental effects of the development (and of any associated development).
- 3.2.5 The SoCC, prepared under Section 47 of the PA 2008, set out how the PEIR was to be publicised and consulted on. This included confirmation of the relevant consultation bodies required to be notified of the statutory consultation in accordance with EIA Regulation 13. The statutory consultation exercise was carried out in accordance with the Stage Two SoCC (available on the project website).
- 3.2.6 The PEIR published as part of the Stage Two Consultation was the written output of the EIA undertaken to date for the Project. The PEIR was designed to accord with the minimum requirements for an ES as set out in Regulation 14 and Schedule 4 of the EIA Regulations as far as possible based on known information.

In preparing the PEIR for consultation, regard was had to PINS Advice Note Seven: Environmental Impact Assessment: Process, Preliminary Environmental Information and Environmental Statements.

- 3.2.7 The findings presented in the PEIR were based on a preliminary assessment and reflected the design process at that stage and understanding of baseline conditions, allowing for conclusions as to the likely significant effects to be drawn. Although preliminary, the findings of the assessment set out within the report allowed an informed view to be developed of the Project being promoted, the assessment approach that had been undertaken, and drew preliminary conclusions on the likely significant effects and environmental measures proposed.
- 3.2.8 Where the design was still evolving or further information on baseline conditions were still to be obtained, a precautionary approach was applied to ensure a likely worst-case scenario was assessed in the PEIR. The PEIR presented a level of preliminary assessment appropriate to enable consultees to develop an informed view of likely significant environmental effects of the Project and help inform their consultation responses during the Stage Two Consultation as part of the pre-application stage. This enabled both the design of the Project and the EIA to take into consideration any comments received through the consultation.
- 3.2.9 Responses to the Scoping Opinion comments (which had been received in March 2022), detailing how they were addressed within the PEIR were set out in each environmental topic chapter.

Feedback received

- 3.2.10 The project website was visited by 9,486 users during the consultation period, with visits to the home page, the Knowledge Hub (which includes all the consultation material), the 'Meet the Team', the Project overview and map, and the consultation overview pages being the most visited.
- 3.2.11 A total of 345 pieces of feedback were received in response to the Stage Two Consultation.
- 3.2.12 Representations were received from local authorities, national and local organisations, PILs, and the local community. The feedback comprised:
- Online via the interactive feedback map – 47
 - Online via the feedback form - 52
 - Email feedback - 235
 - Hard copy feedback forms - 7
 - Hard copy white mail - 4

Figure 3.2 - Feedback received at Stage Two Consultation by type

- 3.2.13 Late responses were received from Urenco UK Ltd, Trafford Metropolitan Borough Council, Halton Borough Council, the Woodland Trust, Action Bridge Parish Council, Dunham Parish Council, Friends of Carrington Moss, the UK Health Security Agency, and eleven members of the public.
- 3.2.14 Following identification and categorisation of the feedback, the Applicant considered feedback received as part of its ongoing design, assessment and evaluation processes for the Project.
- 3.2.15 A detailed summary of how the Applicant has had regard to the consultation feedback provided during the Stage Two Consultation is provided in the Stage Two CSR ([Stage 2 Consultation Summary Report](#)).

Compliance with the SoCC and Appendix C s55 Checklist

- 3.2.16 The Applicant has prepared a Compliance Checklist to demonstrate how the consultation undertaken at Statutory Stage Two complied with the agreed SoCC. This checklist can be found at **Appendix F**. The checklist identifies commitments made in the SoCC and evidence how this was complied with.
- 3.2.17 **Appendix C**, as referred to in **Section 2.3**, provides the completed Section 55 Checklist for the Statutory Stage Two Consultation. This confirms how the application complies with Sections 42, 45, 46, 47, 48 and 49 of the PA 2008, and signposts to the relevant report in the application submission that provides further detail on each of the questions.

3.3 Statutory Stage Three Consultation

Purpose of the consultation

- 3.3.1 The Applicant's objectives for the Statutory Stage Three Consultation were to:

- Provide an update on information relating to the Project;
- Provide the community and other stakeholders with the opportunity to understand, comment on and influence the proposals, including the proposed pipeline route prior to the submission of the application;
- Provide clear and concise technical and non-technical information on the Project;
- Help local people understand the potential nature and local impact of the Project prior to the submission of the application;
- Provide a range of opportunities (including public exhibitions) for consultees and the public to engage with the Project, speak to members of the project team, and provide comments and feedback; and
- Ensure that comments and feedback have been taken into account in finalising the DCO application prior to its submission.

3.3.2 The consultation focused on sharing how proposals had developed following the Statutory Stage Two Consultation and how feedback had been taken account of and incorporated into the Project and the Preliminary Order Limits. Views were also sought on detailed proposals, including the red line boundary (available on the project website), and potential HAGI and BVI locations.

3.3.3 The information provided at the Statutory Stage Three Consultation (available on the project website) included:

- The Stage Three SoCC.
- The interactive map on the project website remained available.
- The Stage Two CSR.
- Copies of the section 47 and 48 notices.
- Copies of the brochures, panels, postcards, poster and press adverts.
- The consultation feedback form.
- An updated Design Evolution Report, which described how the Project had evolved as a result of the Stage Two Consultation.
- A Draft Environmental Statement (ES) was also published (available on the project website) and consulted on as part of the Statutory Stage Three Consultation. The Draft ES was prepared to allow consultees to consider and comment on changes to the Project since the publication of the PEIR in 2022 (available on the project website).
- Supporting documents for the Draft ES, including a Landscape and Ecological Management Plan, an Outline Biodiversity Mitigation Strategy, a Draft Outline Lighting Strategy and a Non-Technical Summary of the Draft ES.

When the consultation took place

- 3.3.4 The Statutory Stage Three Consultation took place over a 36-day period from 14 October 2024 to 19 November 2024 (inclusive). This exceeds the statutory minimum period of 28 days for statutory consultation specified by the PA 2008.

Where the consultation took place

- 3.3.5 The Statutory Stage Three Consultation was open to anyone that had a view that they wished the Applicant to consider (as was the case for the Stage One and Stage Two Consultation).
- 3.3.6 A Consultation Zone (Appendix B of the Stage Three SoCC) was developed based on the Project's initial route corridors, which were used to inform the zone at Stage One and Two. The Applicant reviewed these initial route corridors to ensure that they extended a minimum of 300m from where locations were being considered for above ground installations (HAGIs and BVIs). Similarly, for the pipeline and other temporary works including construction compounds and access points, the zone was extended to ensure that it was a minimum of 200m from such works.
- 3.3.7 The Applicant's modelling and associated LUPZs were not intended to be provided in public consultation. To ensure it is behaving responsibly, the Applicant instead opted to take a conservative approach to the area within which it is undertaking consultation as part of its upcoming Statutory Consultation.
- 3.3.8 The area for Statutory Stage Three Consultation therefore included all modelled LUPZs and a buffer zone, plus various additional areas of land which have been used in previous project consultations, where still relevant. The Applicant also undertook a robust and appropriate examination of potential impacts on parties who currently propose to bring forward development within the modelled LUPZ areas.
- 3.3.9 As the Project has evolved since Stage One, the approach to defining the Consultation Zone has been one of refinement such that those who would be unaffected by the Project are not directly consulted un-necessarily.
- 3.3.10 Where a leg or corridor has been removed, those potentially affected by that element of the Project remain on the list of consultees so that they are consulted at the subsequent consultation stage. This is to ensure that such consultee is aware of the removal of the element of the Project that may affect them. Once this exercise is completed, they are then removed from any further rounds of consultation. As an example, those within the route corridor which was east of Northwich at Stage One were also consulted on its removal at Stage Two. They were not consulted at Stage Three.
- 3.3.11 The exception to the rule is the Northwich Spur. This did form part of the Project at Stage Two, however following consultation, its removal was publicised by the Applicant on 02 May 2023 with all those persons with interest in land in this area and registered website users in the spurline corridor notified individually. As this notification had already taken place, it was removed from the Statutory Stage Three Consultation Zone to avoid unnecessary consultation.

Who was consulted and short summary of feedback received with links to the relevant Consultation Report

3.3.12 At the same time as consulting the local community, the Applicant consulted a wide range of statutory consultees on the Project, in accordance with Section 42 of the PA 2008. These were identified with consideration of Advice Note Three: EIA Notification and Consultation and its associated Annex. These include:

- Host and neighbouring local authorities;
- Prescribed consultees (such as Natural England and Environment Agency); and,
- People with an interest in land that might be affected by the proposals.

Local authorities

3.3.13 In accordance with Section 42(1)(b) of the PA 2008, the following local authorities were consulted.

Table 3.2 - Local authorities consulted during the Statutory Stage Three Consultation

Grouping as defined in Section 43 of the Planning Act (2008) ⁹	Description	Local authorities
A	A neighbouring authority that shares a boundary with a unitary council or lower tier district council within whose area the development is situated (an adjacent authority).	Derbyshire County Council Flintshire County Council High Peak Borough Council Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council Lancashire County Council Liverpool City Council Manchester City Council Newcastle under Lyme Borough Council Peak District National Park Authority Salford City Council Shropshire Council Staffordshire County Council Staffordshire Moorlands District Council Warrington Borough Council West Lancashire Borough Council Wigan Council Wirral Council Wrexham County Borough Council
B	Either a unitary council or lower tier district council in which the development is situated (a host authority).	Cheshire East Council Cheshire West and Chester Council Halton Borough Council St Helens Borough Council Trafford Metropolitan Borough Council Warrington Borough Council

⁹ Legislation.gov.uk Planning Act (2008) Section 43 Available online: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/29/section/43> (Accessed 12 August 2024).

Persons with an interest in land

3.3.14 In accordance with Section 42(1)(d) of the PA 2008, PILs were consulted, as set out below:

- Category 1 – an owner, lessee, tenant or occupier of the land;
- Category 2 – a person interested in the land or has power to sell and convey the land or to release the land; and
- Category 3 – a person who would or might be entitled to make a claim under Section 10 of the *Compulsory Purchase Act 1965* or Part 1 of the *Land Compensation Act 1973* or Section 152(3) of the PA 2008.

3.3.15 Following the completion of the referencing exercises and in order to ensure completeness of the information, contact with the identified PILs was made. Processes followed were different depending on the PIL categorisation:

- Category 1
 - ▶ Covering letter and a pre-populated persons with an interest in land questionnaire (PILQ) was issued.
 - ▶ If a 'Return to Sender' was received from the Royal Mail, an online search was carried out for an alternative address and the PILQ form was reissued.
 - ▶ If no alternative address was found, the PILQ was issued to the 'Owner/ Occupier' or the 'Occupier' at the property address.
 - ▶ If no response from mail merge was received, a phone call requesting a meeting was carried out (if a number has been identified).
 - ▶ If no answer or call back was received, a cold call visit to the property took place and letter was left if no one present.
 - ▶ If no answer or call back was received, a second cold call visit to the property took place and a letter was left if no one present.
 - ▶ A final letter requesting a meeting was left if no previous responses were received.
- Category 2
 - ▶ Covering letter and a pre-populated PILQ was issued
 - ▶ Covering letter and a pre-populated PILQ was issued.
 - ▶ A chaser letter was issued to the PIL.
 - ▶ A final letter was issued if no previous responses were received.

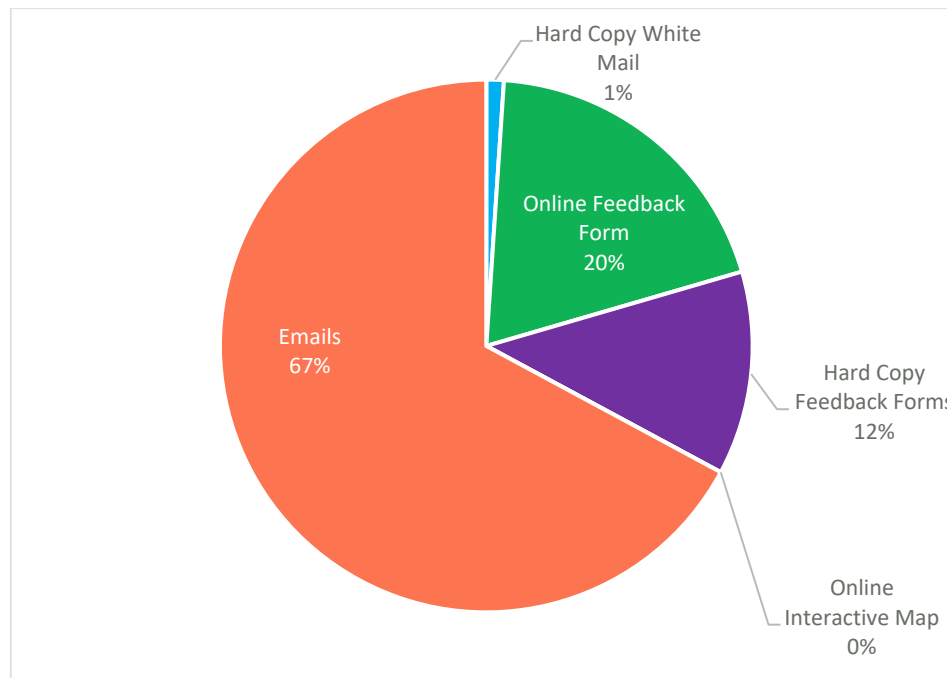
3.3.16 Unknown land interests required further steps to be taken to establish ownership. This included the erection of site notices seeking information, enquiries with local and neighbouring landowners, review of cautions against first registration lodged with the Land Registry and the application of presumptions as to ownership. Notices were placed in as prominent a location as possible, were kept up on site and monitored weekly for at least three weeks to ensure they remained in good condition and were not compromised, ensuring they were always clearly visible.

EIA Consultation

- 3.3.17 The Draft ES was presented at the Statutory Stage Three Consultation and built on the PEIR published under the Statutory Stage Two Consultation (both available on the project website). The Stage Three SoCC sets out how the ES was to be publicised and consulted on. This included confirmation of the relevant consultation bodies required to be notified of the statutory consultation in accordance with EIA Regulation 13. The statutory consultation exercise was carried out in accordance with the Stage Three SoCC (as provided at **Paragraph 1.4.4** of this Report).
- 3.3.18 Feedback received from the Statutory Stage Two Consultation process, as well as information gathered from further engineering and environmental studies undertaken, resulted in changes to the design of the Project since publication of the PEIR. The Draft ES presented the potential environmental effects arising from the Project as currently defined. The Draft ES therefore was provided to inform feedback from stakeholders on the design of the Project. This feedback enabled final refinements to be made to the design of the Project to achieve a final design. The final Draft Order Limits, including a final set of associated accesses and temporary construction compounds will be presented as the final plans in the application for development consent and accompanying ES.

Feedback received

- 3.3.19 The project website was visited by 6,909 new users and 1,393 returning users during the consultation period, with visits to the home page, the Knowledge Hub (which includes all the consultation material), the 'Meet the Team', the Project overview and map, and the 'Have your say' pages being the most visited.
- 3.3.20 A total of 283 pieces of feedback were received in response to the Stage Three Consultation.
- 3.3.21 Representations were received from local authorities, national and local organisations, PILs, and the local community. The feedback comprised:
- Online via the feedback form - 55
 - Email feedback - 190
 - Hard copy feedback forms - 35
 - Hard copy white mail - 3
- 3.3.22 Several phone calls (25) were received during the consultation period. Phone calls included general questions about the Project, queries about the events (when in-person events were taking place or how to sign on to online events), requests for documents, landowner queries and questions about how to use the interactive map.

Figure 3.1 - Feedback received at Stage Three Consultation by type

- 3.3.23 Late responses were received from the Trafford Metropolitan Borough Council, Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council, National Highways, Cheshire East Council, Chester West and Chester Council, Halton Borough Council, Shell, Sarah Hall MP, Atkins Realis, Liverpool City Regional Spatial Planning and seven members of the public.
- 3.3.24 Following identification and categorisation of the feedback, the Applicant considered feedback received as part of its ongoing design, assessment and evaluation processes for the Project.

Compliance with the SoCC and Appendix D s55 Checklist

- 3.3.25 The Applicant has prepared a Compliance Checklist to demonstrate how the consultation undertaken at Stage Three complied with the agreed SoCC. This checklist can be found at **Appendix G**. The checklist identifies commitments made in the SoCC and evidence how this was complied with.
- 3.3.26 **Appendix D**, as referred to in **Section 2.4**, provides the completed Section 55 Checklist for the Stage Three Consultation. This confirms how the application complies with Sections 42, 45, 46, 47, 48 and 49 of the PA 2008 and signposts to the relevant report in the application submission that provides further detail on each of the questions.
- 3.3.27 Feedback received from St Helens Borough Council and Cheshire East Council considered the Stage Three Consultation as sufficient and in line with Stage Three SoCC.

4. Summary of Project Evolution

4.1.1 The Project underwent a number of changes and updates as a result of the Stage One, Stage Two and Stage Three Consultations. These changes reflect the evolution of the project options and design taking into account comments received at consultation and also the findings of environmental and technical surveys/assessments.

4.2 Evolution of the Preliminary Route Sections Presented at Stage One Consultation

4.2.1 The Applicant reviewed and considered all feedback received to the Stage One Consultation and continued to develop the Project, including narrowing down the wider route corridors into a more defined route, known as a preferred route alignment, which included preliminary order limits. Changes made as a result of comments received during the Stage One Consultation are summarised below. Further details on the updates to the Project were included in the Design Evolution Report, which was made available as part of the Stage Two Consultation and is available on the project website¹⁰.

4.2.2 At this stage of the Project, changes were focused around six key areas:

- Central Hub HAGI;
- Hydrogen Above Ground Installations;
- North Corridor;
- South Corridor;
- West Corridor; and
- East Corridor.

Central Hub

4.2.3 The Applicant recognised the concerns raised about siting the Central Hub to the south of the A533, including issues raised around the Dutton Dean ancient woodland, potential land stability issues around the Trent and Mersey Canal, and the sloping topography of the land. The Applicant considered that whilst the slope in this area would not be sufficient to prevent a HAGI being developed and the ancient woodland can be easily avoided, the options north of A533 had fewer constraints overall. As such, two options north of A533, CHH1 and CHH2, were taken forward for assessment and further consideration at the Statutory Stage Two Consultation.

¹⁰ [Knowledge hub - HyNet North West Hydrogen Pipeline](#)

Hydrogen Above Ground Installations

4.2.4 In response to feedback received at the Stage One Consultation, and due to the evolving nature of the Project at this stage, the number of HAGIs were reduced from 12 to 10 by removing potential HAGIs at Cuerdley and Burtonwood. Concerns were raised particularly about ecological features in the Rocksavage HAGI search area. In response to these, the Applicant discounted options RSH4 and RHS5 and moved option RSH3 out of the flood zone for it to be considered alongside options RSH1 and RSH2 in the Statutory Stage Two Consultation.

North Corridor

- 4.2.5 The Applicant recognised concerns around the proximity of the pipeline to residential properties in Daresbury and the potential for impacts on the Creamfields festival site. In response, route option NP7 was discounted due to consented housing developments along the route and the high costs of crossing the Manchester Ship Canal and rail lines in the locations proposed. Additional route alternatives were identified for the area around the Creamfields site.
- 4.2.6 With regard to concerns about the Moore Nature Reserve and other ecological features, the Applicant recognised that both options NP4 and NP5 would run through the nature reserve, though that NP5 would not require any permanent land take within it.
- 4.2.7 In response to requests that pipeline crossings not disturb the River Mersey and the former Sankey (St Helens) Canal, the Applicant considered that both crossings would be trenchless and that no disturbance should occur. The Applicant responded to comments identifying potential conflicts with residential development on the former Linkway Distribution site in St Helens by selecting a route for the spurline within the existing public highway such that any direct conflict would be avoided.

South Corridor

4.2.8 Objections and support were received to both options for the South Corridor, South 1 and South 2, with no clear preference expressed. The Applicant concluded that the corridor for South 2 included more ecological designations, the potential for increased underground services and infrastructure related to brinefields. Consequently, South 1 was selected as the route for consideration at Statutory Stage Two Consultation.

West Corridor

- 4.2.9 The Applicant considered feedback from the Stage One Consultation which raised concerns about areas of flooding and flood plain. The Applicant therefore sought to avoid flood plain as far as practicable. Where this is not possible, such as between Stanlow and Rocksavage, effects from construction of the pipeline would be appropriately mitigated and informed by a Flood Risk Assessment.
- 4.2.10 Suggestions that the pipeline route follow or include the M56 or River Weaver were considered by the Applicant. The Applicant determined that the pipeline could not follow the motorway from the Hydrogen Production Plant to Rocksavage

too closely given the presence of an existing overhead power line. It was concluded that the pipeline could not be routed within the M56 due to the disruption from construction on the motorway and future maintenance. For the section of the M56 from Rocksavage eastwards, the Applicant considered there is limited land available to route a pipeline adjacent to the motorway because of an increase in the amount of existing development.

East Corridor

- 4.2.11 The Applicant recognised that many respondents offered suggestions and requests for changes to the pipeline route to avoid settlements and features. In response to requests that the route avoid Lower Whitley and nearby woodland, the route taken forward to Statutory Stage Two Consultation avoided these by running to the south of both. In response to suggestions that the pipeline route avoid Spud Wood, the Applicant considered that the original corridor did avoid Spud Wood and ensured that this avoidance remained as the Project progressed. Concerning trees in general, the Applicant committed to undertaking an arboricultural survey of all trees with the potential to be affected along the route. The results of this survey were presented later, at Stage 3.
- 4.2.12 The preferred route alignment was located further from the Dunham Massey Estate due to concerns raised about the proximity and potential effects on National Trust land and property holdings. With regard to comments about the proposed housing development in Partington East, the pipeline route taken forward to Statutory Stage Two Consultation ran between the development parcels proposed in the New Carrington Masterplan. In response to concerns about the pipeline route through the Carrington and Warburton Mosses, the Applicant considered that the Mosses cannot be completely avoided by the route and would seek to minimise the impact of the pipeline in this area by following an existing utility (pipeline) corridor and through the appliance of best practice measures during construction. These measures would be informed by a Peat Management Plan, which will accompany the application.

4.3 Evolution of the Preliminary Route Sections Presented at Statutory Stage Two Consultation

- 4.3.1 The Applicant reviewed and considered all feedback received to the Statutory Stage Two Consultation and continued to develop the Project. A summary of the responses raised during Statutory Stage Two Consultation, which influenced the evolution of the Preliminary Order Limits, is presented below. Further details on the updates to the Project were included in the Design Evolution Report, which was made available as part of the Statutory Stage Three Consultation (as provided at **Paragraph 1.4.4** of this Report).

Alternatives

- 4.3.2 Concern was raised that alternate route options had not been sufficiently explored and assessed. In response to comments requesting alternate routing closer to the M56 to avoid impacting on the expansion of the Protos Energy Park, the

Applicant met with the respondent and considered that the route runs as close to the M56 as possible, given constraints from existing utilities. In response to a request for consideration of an alternative route between Barnton and Anderton, the Applicant removed the Northwich Spur following discussions with Tata Chemicals Europe.

- 4.3.3 Reviewing the options presented at Statutory Stage Two Consultation, the Applicant removed two options for a HAGI at Rocksavage and selected the WP3 option as opposed to WP4 to cross the Weaver Navigation south of the M56. The site of the Runcorn HAGI was also moved north to avoid potentially contaminated land and a consented development proposal, this following information received from consultees.
- 4.3.4 Other options selected included the retention of HWH2 as one option for the site of the Higher Walton HAGI with HWH1 removed and a choice of route around the Creamfields Festival Site (NP3) which would see it avoided in response to comments received.
- 4.3.5 At Statutory Stage Two Consultation the Applicant had consulted upon a number of route and crossing options of the River Weaver and West Coast Mainline at Vale Royal. Comments received included a preference to avoid the listed canal locks and the proximity of Vale Royal Abbey to one of the options. The Applicant chose a route that ran on the opposite side of the railway to the former Abbey, and which crossed the river north of the locks.
- 4.3.6 Whilst the Applicant modified and reduced the area of the Preliminary Order Limits generally (as greater certainty with regard to constraints was becoming available as environmental surveys progressed).

Route Location

- 4.3.7 Comments were received that shared concern about the impact of the pipeline route on proposed development at the Voltage Park industrial estate which is at Partington at the end of the East Corridor. In response to these, the Applicant considered the Voltage Park planning application during further development of the pipeline routing and HAGI location and opened discussions with the relevant developer. Similar comment was received to that from Stage One consultation requesting the pipeline route be revised near developable areas of Carrington and Partington (New Carrington). The Applicant consequently reduced the width of the Preliminary Order Limits further and amended the alignment ensuring that the pipeline route remained within an existing utility corridor between development parcels, following a further review of Local Plan allocations and relevant planning applications. An alternative HAGI location was also proposed that would avoid Voltage Park, known as PH2. The connection to Saica was removed since this offtaker no longer required hydrogen.
- 4.3.8 In response to concerns about impacts on the Dunham Massey Estate and its associated heritage assets, the Applicant met with the National Trust to discuss its proposals and subsequently reduced the width of the Preliminary Order Limits further.

- 4.3.9 In response to National Trust identifying that the Preliminary Order Limits extend through a productive apple orchard, the Preliminary Order Limits were redrafted to avoid the apple orchard on the Dunham Massey Estate.
- 4.3.10 Suggestions were received that the Trent and Mersey Canal was prone to breaching and that the land below it through Dutton is steep and unstable. In response, the Applicant undertook discussions with the Canal and River Trust and subsequently amended the micro-tunnel proposal so that the allowance for tunnelling was extended south and further away from the embankment Also supporting the use of a Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) technique. Finally, an additional option which would take the pipeline further to the east was included for Stage Three Statutory Consultation.
- 4.3.11 In response to concerns about the pipeline route through Vale Royal Falconry, the Applicant subsequently met with the landowner and altered the Preliminary Order Limits to move it further away.
- 4.3.12 Feedback was received which raised concern that the Preliminary Order Limits cover part of the Fiddlers Ferry employment and residential redevelopment. The Applicant revised the route of the pipeline to avoid Fiddlers Ferry and the land identified for residential development such that Fiddlers Ferry would be almost entirely avoided by routeing through the golf course. A second option to route the pipeline north of the River Mersey and to avoid the allocation by following the northern boundary of the Fiddler Ferry Golf Course was also prepared.
- 4.3.13 Reference was made to the proposed South West Urban Extension in Warrington. This proposal was not allocated within the adopted Warrington Local Plan 2023 nor was it subject to a planning application. However, the pipeline route was amended to follow an existing utilities corridor.
- 4.3.14 Comments were also received that raised concern that the Preliminary Order Limits included land subject to a planning application by Encirc Limited. Subsequent to statutory consultation, the Applicant met with the landowner to discuss both parties' proposals. The route was amended from that presented at Stage Two with the use of the internal service road removed. The updated proposals should not affect Encirc's current plans for their site and confirmation on this position was sought at Statutory Stage Three Consultation.

Warrington Spur

- 4.3.15 The Applicant also recognised concerns that the Preliminary Order Limits cover parts of the Warrington Western Link Road scheme and Warrington Waterfront residential development (Rivers Edge). The Applicant revised the route of the pipeline to avoid the proposed residential development in this location. Following discussions with Warrington Council, the route was modified such that the Warrington Western Road Link would be crossed via Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) from Morley Common to Chester Road. The outline design for the Warrington Western Link Road was supplied to the Applicant and discussions have and continue to take place to ensure that both developments can come forward. It should be noted that the Applicant proposed an alternative HAGI location south of the Manchester Ship Canal, which would result in an alternative Warrington Spur that may have less interaction with the proposed Warrington

Western Link Road. This alternative HAGI location was in response to comments received concerning the proposed HAGI location on land at Port Warrington.

Runcorn Spur

4.3.16 The Applicant received comments suggesting that the pipeline route passes over the entrance of a consented renewable energy site. In response, the Applicant amended the Preliminary Order Limits such that the Project would no longer be routed across the entrance of the proposed renewable energy development.

Property Impacts

4.3.17 Representations were received regarding the pipeline route and location of the St Helens HAGI and its potential adverse effects on Ravenhead Retail Park. In response to these comments, the Applicant subsequently removed this HAGI following the Statutory Stage Two Consultation and extended the width of the Preliminary Order Limits to provide additional flexibility in order to allow for the siting of the pipeline in the road or on the edge of the road.

4.4 Evolution of the Preliminary Route Sections Presented at Stage Three Consultation

4.4.1 The Applicant reviewed and considered all feedback received to the Statutory Stage Three Consultation and continued to review its proposals. A summary of the responses raised during the Statutory Stage Three Consultation, which influenced the evolution of the Preliminary Order Limits, is presented below. Further details on the updates to the Project are included in the Design Evolution Report Addendum, which will be made available at Targeted Consultation.

West Corridor

Marsh Lane

4.4.2 A telecommunications mast was observed as present within the centre of a narrow section of the West Corridor pipeline route where Marsh Lane and Moorditch Lane cross. The telecommunications mast would need to be removed to facilitate construction of the pipeline, and if reinstated in the same location, would bring a risk of pipeline damage.

4.4.3 It is therefore proposed to widen the Draft Order Limits in this location to the south east in order to maximise the land available in which to place the pipeline. The corridor would remain narrow (only increasing from around 20m wide to around 23m wide), but this is considered sufficient to allow the pipeline to be constructed whilst potentially avoiding the requirement to temporarily remove the mast.

Sutton Weaver

4.4.4 Representations have been received requesting that the pipeline is moved away from the land between Sutton Hall and Aston Lane, due to the presence of utilities serving the properties, the habitats present on the land and the potential for

disturbance to occupiers during construction. The Applicant recognises that there is sufficient land available for the pipeline to cross to the south of the properties. A route in this location would reduce potential disturbance to property occupiers given the greater distance and reduce the impact significance previously identified to the Grade 1 listed Sutton Hall. It should be noted that representations were also received requesting the route continue to run north of Sutton Hall.

North Corridor

Higher Walton HAGI

- 4.4.5 Two options were presented at the Statutory Stage Three Consultation for the Higher Walton HAGI: HWH2 and HWH8. HWH8 was introduced given the extant planning permission on HWH2 (Warrington Port). Comments were received on HWH8 citing concern over potential amenity disturbance to occupiers of nearby properties and the loss of a greenfield, Green Belt site.
- 4.4.6 The Applicant has considered the representations received and has identified an alternative, third option for the Higher Walton HAGI. This would be on land within the Solvay Interlox site on the northern bank of the Manchester Ship Canal.
- 4.4.7 Known as HWH9 the option would be located outside of the Green Belt, on previously developed land and would be sited some distance from residential properties.

Warrington Spur

- 4.4.8 Two sets of options were presented at the Stage Three Consultation for the pipeline route on the Warrington Spur. A number of representations have been received relating to the Warrington Spur, reflecting its location in a highly developed, urban area with little room for pipeline routeing to avoid potential constraints. The representations have been reviewed to determine whether any new information has been received and to backcheck the previous design decision made against the representations, and to determine whether any design changes are required. The identification of the HWH9 option for the Higher Walton HAGI has also influenced the design of the Spur.
- 4.4.9 Responding to the concerns maintained by Warrington Council over the potential of the Project to affect delivery of the Warrington Western Link Road, the Applicant has removed the option to route the Warrington Spur pipeline under the railway viaduct at Eastford Road. It has instead proposed a route through Solvay Interlox and into Morley Common. This route could be taken irrespective of whether the HWH9 option were to be chosen.
- 4.4.10 The second set of route options ran from Morley Common: WSp1 and WSp3. WSp1 ran along the public highways of Gainsborough Road, and WSp3 ran along Cranbourne Avenue before then joining Gainsborough Road. Option WSp3 has now been removed from the Project due to a recently consented and constructed sub-station at the western end of Cranbourne Avenue restricting the spur line route. The Project will therefore follow WSp1.

East Corridor

North East of Moss Lane

4.4.11 Consultation responses from a landowner have identified that a building originally thought to be a barn is a holiday let. Further information provided in discussion with the landowner also indicates that there are a number of wells in the field. The alignment of the pipeline has been amended to pass to the north of the holiday let thereby removing future views of construction activities. Different but not additional trees could be affected by the amended proposals, whilst the possible presence of historic extraction pits should not be significant.

Partington HAGI

4.4.12 Two options were presented for the Partington HAGI: PH1 and PH2 at Statutory Stage Three Consultation. Both are located within the allocated New Carrington regeneration area within the Places for Everyone policy document, though both options have been sited to avoid any consented developments. PH1 is located immediately adjacent to a consented development and space for the pipeline access is limited. Ongoing discussions with the landowner are continuing as they have highlighted their concerns about the proximity of the HAGI and its consented development proposals.

4.4.13 Comments were received from local stakeholders regarding the proposed access route previously consulted upon. In response the Applicant has selected Common Lane as the preferred route to access PH2 and the pipeline construction working areas to the south. Further changes have also been made to the Draft Order Limits presented at Stage Three Consultation to reduce the potential for overlap with the consented development (Voltage Park).

South Corridor

Vale Royal

4.4.14 Four options had been presented for the crossing of the River Weaver/Weaver Navigation and the West Coast Main Line at the Statutory Stage Two Consultation, which raised concerns at the time. A different option was therefore presented at the Statutory Stage Three Consultation, for a single trenchless crossing using HDD or micro tunnel where the river and the rail line cross. This option reduced the number of trenchless crossings needed, minimised the distance of the single crossing and avoided land of heritage and leisure value around the Vale Royal Golf Club.

4.4.15 Representations were received from the landowner on the eastern side of the crossing, requesting that the pipeline route is moved from the north of Eaton Hall to that lying between Eaton Hall and the West Coast Main Line, this was on the grounds of on business impacts and amenity grounds.

4.4.16 Whilst not as a result of comments received, the Applicant has proposed an additional option to cross the river and railway in this location, using two micro tunnels first north, then south west. This proposal is not a favoured option due to

the additional cost and land impacts, however due to the complexity of constructing this crossing such activity/land may be required, and it has therefore been included as one of the locations for Targeted Consultation. The favoured trenchless crossing method in this area is the use of a HDD.

Central Hub

- 4.4.17 A number of representations and discussions with landowners have influenced several minor changes to the Draft Order Limits at the Central Hub, as set out below.
- 4.4.18 Landowner discussions outside of formal consultation has suggested acceptance of an amendment to the proposed access from the A533 Northwich Road. It is now proposed to include a second option of an existing access track. Having two construction accesses allows the Applicant to reduce the number of vehicles that would otherwise use a single access. This should reduce the potential for disturbance to occupiers of nearby properties.
- 4.4.19 By extending the Draft Order Limits to include the existing access an additional field has been added to the Draft Order Limits. Following environmental survey and assessments in addition to landowner discussions this field is proposed for environmental mitigation. Environmental effects will also be reduced as the Draft Order Limits have also been amended at a point at which the West Corridor pipeline would enter the Central Hub HAGI. The amendment consists of a minor re-alignment north to avoid an existing pond at the request of the landowner.

4.5 Draft Order Limits

The Applicant has taken consideration of feedback received in all three stages of consultation. Whilst many changes have occurred within the Order Limits presented at Statutory Stage Three Consultation some include for additional land outside of these limits. These changes will be subject to a further stage of targeted consultation, as set out in **Chapter 5**.

5. How the Applicant would undertake any Supplementary or Targeted Consultation

5.1 Supplementary or Targeted Consultation

Purpose of the consultation

- 5.1.1 Any Supplementary or Targeted Consultation will align with the approaches undertaken during all previous stages of both non statutory and statutory pre application consultation.
- 5.1.2 The Applicant will seek to ensure that any required consultation will:
- Provide an update on information relating to the Project;
 - Be limited to such parties as need to be consulted on the particular issues that are subject to the consultation.
 - Provide the community and other stakeholders with the opportunity to understand, comment on and influence the proposals, including the proposed pipeline route;
 - Provide clear and concise technical and non-technical information on the Project;
 - Help local people understand the potential nature and local impact of the Project;
 - Provide a range of opportunities for people to engage with the Project and provide comments and feedback; and
 - Ensure that comments and feedback have been taken into account in finalising the DCO application prior to its submission.
- 5.1.3 Any necessary consultation will focus on sharing how proposals have developed following the Stage Three Consultation and how feedback has been taken account of and incorporated into the Project and the Draft Order Limits. Views will be sought on detailed proposals where necessary, which may include the Draft Order Limits and potential HAGI/BVI locations as necessary.

When the consultation will take place

- 5.1.4 This will be determined following a careful review of all consultation feedback received from the Statutory Stage Three Consultation. The supplementary/targeted consultation will be undertaken for a minimum of four weeks.

Where the consultation will take place

5.1.5 This will be determined on a case by case basis following a careful review of all consultation feedback received from the Statutory Stage Three Consultation. All steps will be considered with regard to notices, advertising/press notices, and where necessary events in line with the approaches adopted during previous stages of consultation and aligned as appropriate with the Consultation Strategy developed for Non Statutory Stage One and the SoCCs produced in support of Statutory Stages Two and Three.

Local authorities

5.1.6 In accordance with standard pre-application consultation procedures, where necessary and appropriate, the applicant will conduct supplementary or targeted consultations. This will involve engaging with local authorities in areas where such consultation is required within their jurisdiction.

Persons with an interest in land

5.1.7 Subject to the requirements for supplementary/targeted consultation, all Persons with an Interest in Land, who will be required to be informed of the consultation as set out in previous SoCCs, will be consulted.

Feedback received

5.1.8 All feedback received during any supplementary or targeted consultation will be reviewed and considered using the same methods and approaches as adopted at each of the previous stages of pre application consultation. Comments received during the consultation period will be considered in detail and with due regard.

5.1.9 As part of the Applicant's preparation for the submission of a DCO application, following any supplementary/targeted consultation a summary of the approach taken, the feedback received and the matters raised will be provided as a separate chapter of the Consultation Report, within the submission documents.

6. Conclusion

- 6.1.1 The Applicant shared its approach to consultation at the non-statutory stage of consultation with local authorities and during each of the statutory stages within the SoCC. This SoCC was updated and reissued between Statutory Stage Two and Three to provide the relevant local planning authorities with the opportunity to comment and suggest any potential changes in approach as the process of consultation continued. No significant changes were proposed.
- 6.1.2 At each stage of pre-application consultation the Applicant has undertaken consultation in accordance with the approach identified and in accordance with the Planning Act 2008.
- 6.1.3 The Applicant has at all times during pre-application consultation given due consideration to all responses received at consultation and whilst it is not always possible to amend the design in response to such comments, a significant number of changes have been made and the Project has developed accordingly.
- 6.1.4 In accordance with the requirements under the Planning Act 2008, the Applicant will prepare a Consultation Report which will provide details of each stage of consultation undertaken received as part of the pre application process and a summary of the responses received.

Appendix A Engagement and Consultation Strategy

Cadent's HyNet North West Hydrogen Pipeline Overview of non-statutory consultation approach in Cheshire East Council

Project overview

The [HyNet North West Hydrogen Pipeline](#) will help unlock an energy revolution that will decarbonise the North West. Our project will put in place the infrastructure to deliver clean hydrogen power to industry, and blended hydrogen power to homes across the region. It is an essential part of [HyNet North West](#) – an innovative project that will produce, store and distribute hydrogen as well as capture and store carbon from industry across the region.

We are developing a network of underground pipelines that will take hydrogen produced at Essar's Stanlow Manufacturing Complex to a number of industrial users and blending stations across the North West. We'll also be connecting into an existing gas storage facility near Northwich. Our pipelines will be underground, although we will need some above ground installations.

Consulting on the proposals

How we communicate our proposals and gather feedback is important to us. Our consultation approach has been developed so as to maximise understanding and awareness of our proposals in your area and encourage engagement from local people and other groups.

Feedback from residents of Cheshire East Council, their representatives and other stakeholders will be important in helping us refine the project design and understand more about the local area.

We intend to carry out two stages of public consultation as part of the pre-application stage of our Development Consent Order application. The first of these will be a non-statutory consultation on the route corridors we have identified for a potential pipeline route, which will take place in Q1 2022. This consultation will run for six weeks.

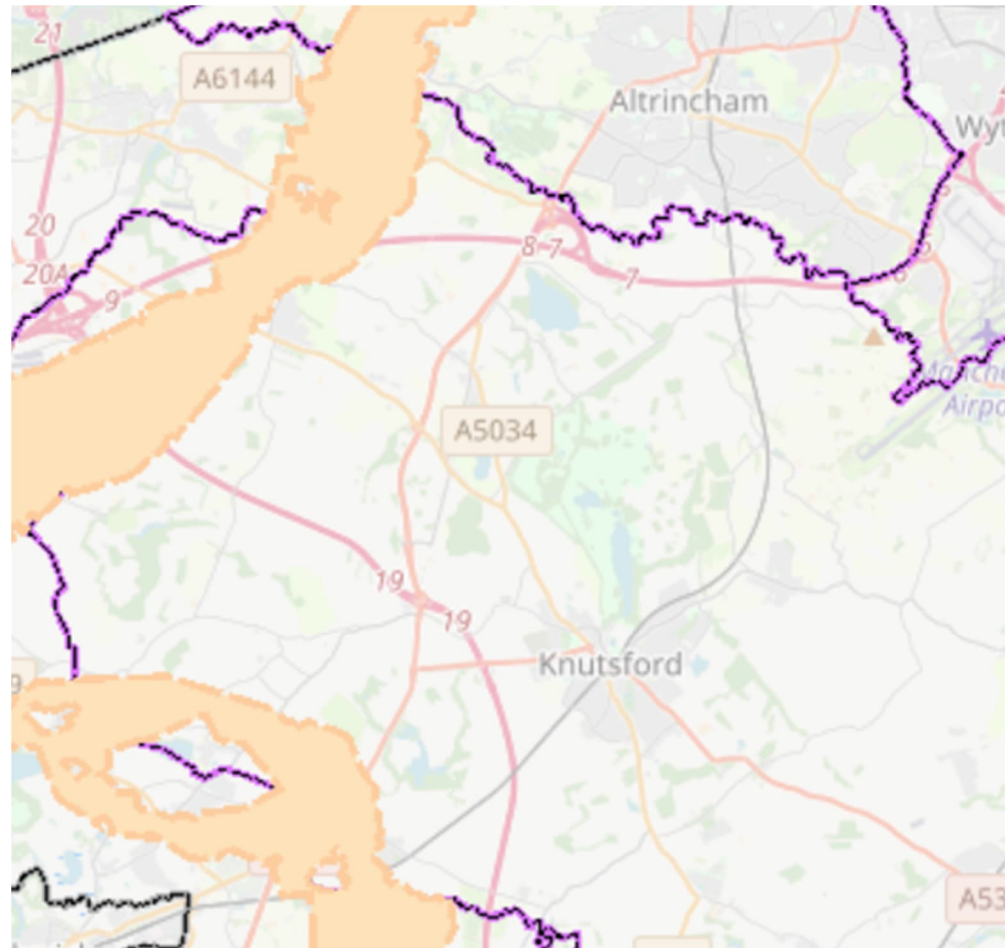
We will hold a further, statutory consultation on a preferred route for the pipeline (and our Preliminary Environmental Information) later in 2022. We'll also consult with the council on our Statement of Community Consultation.

What we would like from you

This document sets out an overview of our consultation approach, along with the specific activities we intend to carry out in Cheshire East Council. We're still in the process of finalising this approach and welcome your thoughts on how we intend to consult. Below we have identified some specific areas and questions we'd welcome your input on. However, if there is anything else you think we should consider, we'd be happy to do this.

Please provide comments in whatever format is most convenient, via info@hynethydrogenpipeline.co.uk. We'd also be happy to organise a meeting to discuss further.

Indicative consultation zone within Cheshire East Council



THIS MAP IS INDICATIVE ONLY

Publicising the consultation

- At the launch of consultation, we will write to residents of Cheshire East Council that are within our consultation zone (as above) directly to tell them how they can find out more about our proposals and provide feedback.
- Outside of this direct consultation zone, we will publicise the consultation periods and events via print and online – through paid-for adverts and press releases. This advertising will be targeted at the entire region, including residents within Cheshire East Council. Publications we are considering engaging with in your area:
 - Mid Cheshire Guardian series (print)
 - Liverpool Echo / Manchester Evening News (digital)**Are there any other publications we should consider? Does the council have any publications (internal or external) that we may be able to provide content for?**
- We will also carry out promotion of the consultation via social media and online advertising. **Would the council be willing to share content about the consultation via its existing channels? If so, please could you advise the best person to contact about this.**

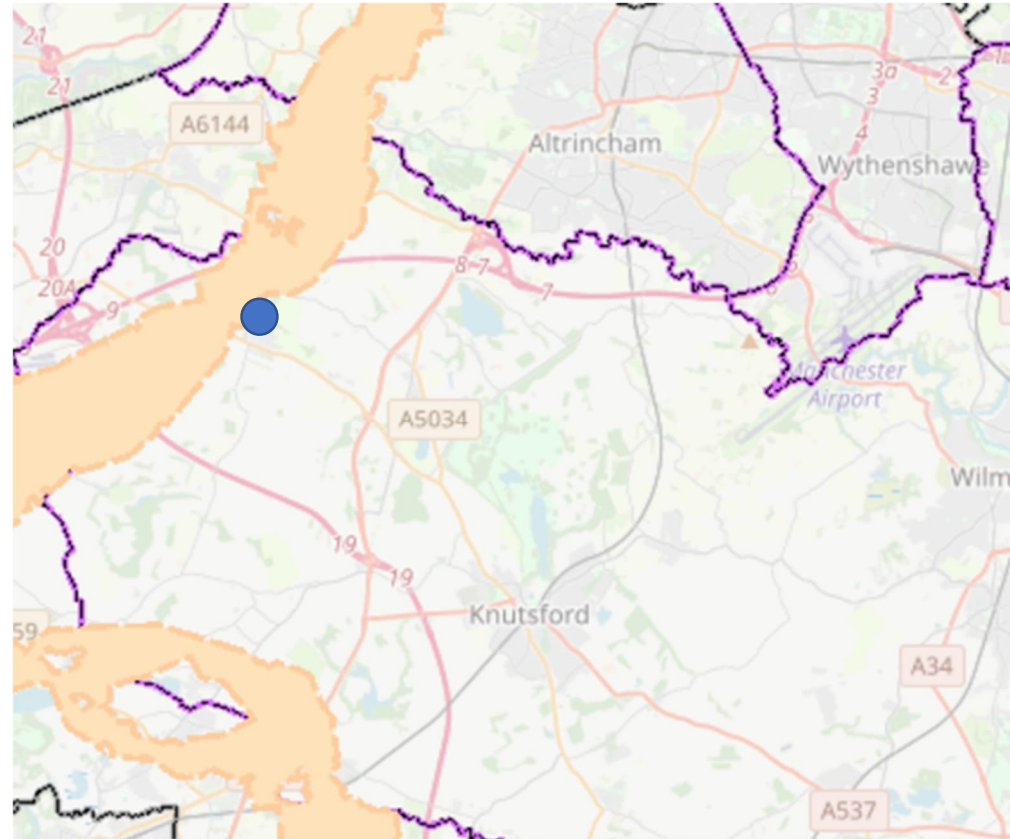
Making information available

- The project website will be the central hub for information
- We intend to provide reference copies of our materials in public locations within the project area. We will also put up posters publicising the consultation at these venues. Within Cheshire East Council, we are considering:
 - Knutsford Library, Toft Rd, Knutsford WA16 0PG
 - High Legh Village Hall, West Lane, High Legh, Knutsford WA16 6LR**Are there any other venues we should consider that would be suitable for either reference materials or posters publicising the consultation?**
- Across the project area, we will hold eight in-person consultation events and two online webinars in total. These events will be an opportunity for people to 'drop in' and ask any questions they may have about the project. They will be staffed by members of the project team from a range of disciplines. Each event will be three hours and will be arranged on different days and times to give people as much opportunity as possible to attend.

In Cheshire East Council, we intend to hold one event (listed and pictured below):

- High Legh Village Hall, West Lane, Knutsford WA16 6LR.

Do you have any comments on the venues we are proposing or our approach to consultation events?



Additional stakeholder groups

We're currently in the process of identifying all of the stakeholders – local, regional and national – that we'll engage with during our consultations. Part of this will include identifying local interest groups and those that may not normally take part in consultations or require support to engage fully. This work is ongoing but please let us know if:

- **There are any specific local interest groups we should engage with?**
- **There are any specific seldom heard groups / hard to reach groups?**
- **The council has a community engagement officer (or other officer) that we can work with as the project develops?**

The planning process, next steps and how we'll work together

We're currently at an early stage in the project. We're carrying out detailed technical assessments to understand more about the areas we're working in. This information is helping us to develop potential route corridors for the pipeline. We will publish more information in January.

HyNet North West Hydrogen Pipeline is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP). This means we will have to apply to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy for a Development Consent Order (DCO).

As part of the DCO process, we will be carrying out consultation with stakeholders and local communities. We currently expect to carry out two stages of consultation (as outlined above). The first of which will begin 26 January, run for six weeks, and end 18 March. These consultations will give local authorities and residents ample opportunity to understand more about our proposals, provide feedback and influence our proposals.

Staying in touch

As we develop our proposals it's important to us that we maintain regular communication with you. We will always keep you updated and fully informed about what we're doing. Should you have any questions, require further information, or have questions or feedback on any of the above, please get in touch with us via the below channels:

- Email: info@hynethydrogenpipeline.co.uk
- Phone: 0800 860 6261
- You can also register for updates via our website: hynethydrogenpipeline.co.uk/keep-in-touch/

Cadent's HyNet North West Hydrogen Pipeline Overview of non-statutory consultation approach in Cheshire West and Chester

The [HyNet North West Hydrogen Pipeline](#) will help unlock an energy revolution that will decarbonise the North West. Our project will put in place the infrastructure to deliver clean hydrogen power to industry, and blended hydrogen power to homes across the region. It is an essential part of [HyNet North West](#) – an innovative project that will produce, store and distribute hydrogen as well as capture and store carbon from industry across the region.

We are developing a network of underground pipelines that will take hydrogen produced at Essar's Stanlow Manufacturing Complex to a number of industrial users and blending stations across the North West. We'll also be connecting into an existing gas storage facility near Northwich. Our pipelines will be underground, although we will need some above ground installations.

Consulting on the proposals

How we communicate our proposals and gather feedback is important to us. Our consultation approach has been developed so as to maximise understanding and awareness of our proposals in your area and encourage engagement from local people and other groups.

Feedback from residents of Cheshire West and Chester, their representatives and other stakeholders will be important in helping us refine the project design and understand more about the local area.

We intend to carry out two stages of public consultation as part of the pre-application stage of our Development Consent Order application. The first of these will be a non-statutory consultation on the route corridors we have identified for a potential pipeline route, which will take place in Q1 2022. This consultation will run for six weeks.

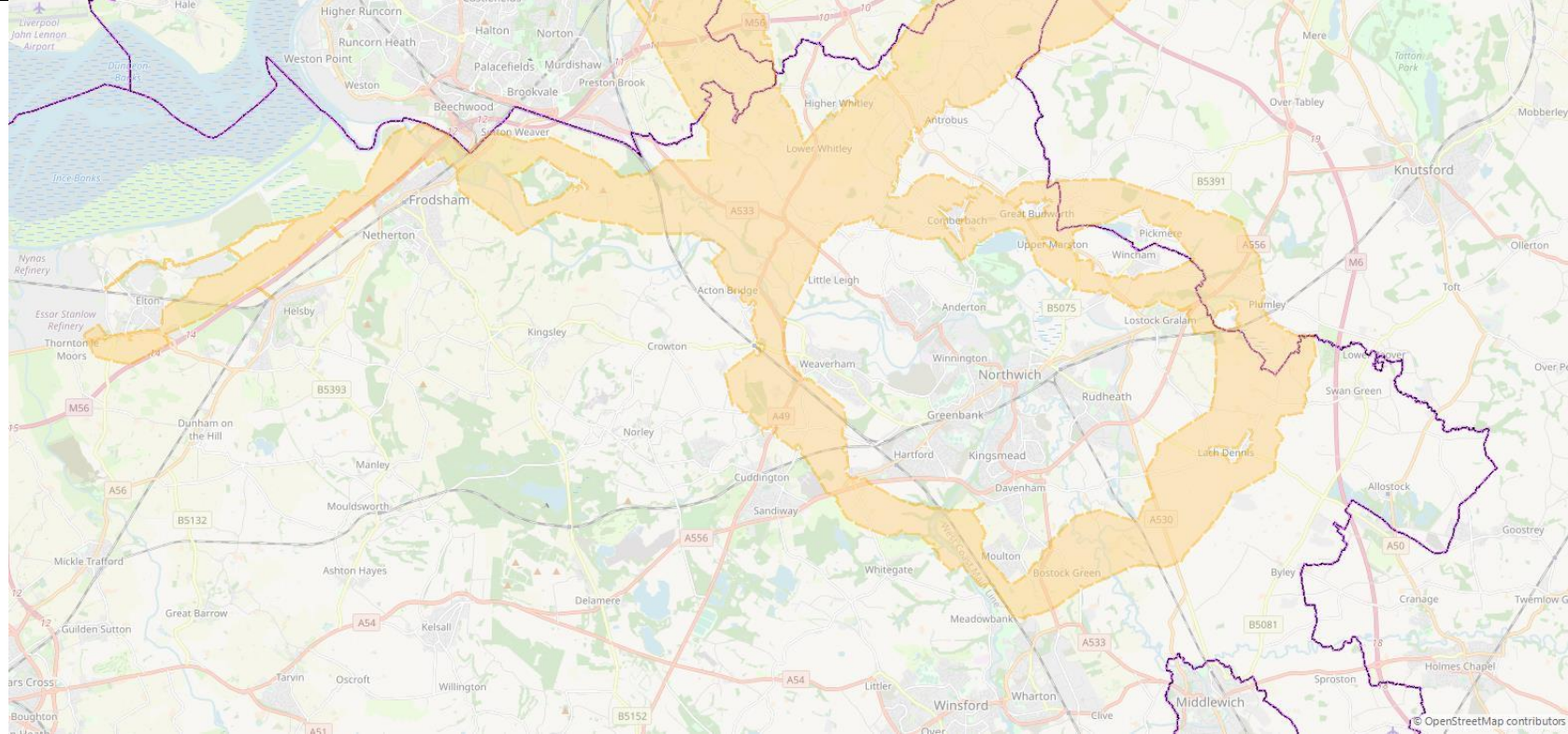
We will hold a further, statutory consultation on a preferred route for the pipeline (and our Preliminary Environmental Information) later in 2022. We'll also consult with the council on our Statement of Community Consultation.

What we would like from you

This document sets out an overview of our consultation approach, along with the specific activities we intend to carry out in Cheshire West and Chester. We're still in the process of finalising this approach and welcome your thoughts on how we intend to consult. Below we have identified some specific areas and questions we'd welcome your input on. However, if there is anything else you think we should consider, we'd be happy to do this.

Please provide comments in whatever format is most convenient, via info@hynethydrogenpipeline.co.uk. We'd also be happy to organise a meeting to discuss further.

Indicative consultation zone within Cheshire West and Chester



THIS MAP IS INDICATIVE ONLY

Publicising the consultation

- At the launch of consultation, we will write to residents of Cheshire West and Chester I that are within our consultation zone (as above) directly to tell them how they can find out more about our proposals and provide feedback.
- Outside of this direct consultation zone, we will publicise the consultation periods and events via print and online – through paid-for adverts and press releases. This advertising will be targeted at the entire region, including residents within Cheshire West and Chester. Publications we are considering engaging with in your area:
 - Mid Cheshire Guardian series (print)
 - Liverpool Echo / Manchester Evening News (digital)**Are there any other publications we should consider? Does the council have any publications (internal or external) that we may be able to provide content for?**
- We will also carry out promotion of the consultation via social media and online advertising. **Would the council be willing to share content about the consultation via its existing channels? If so, please could you advise the best person to contact about this.**

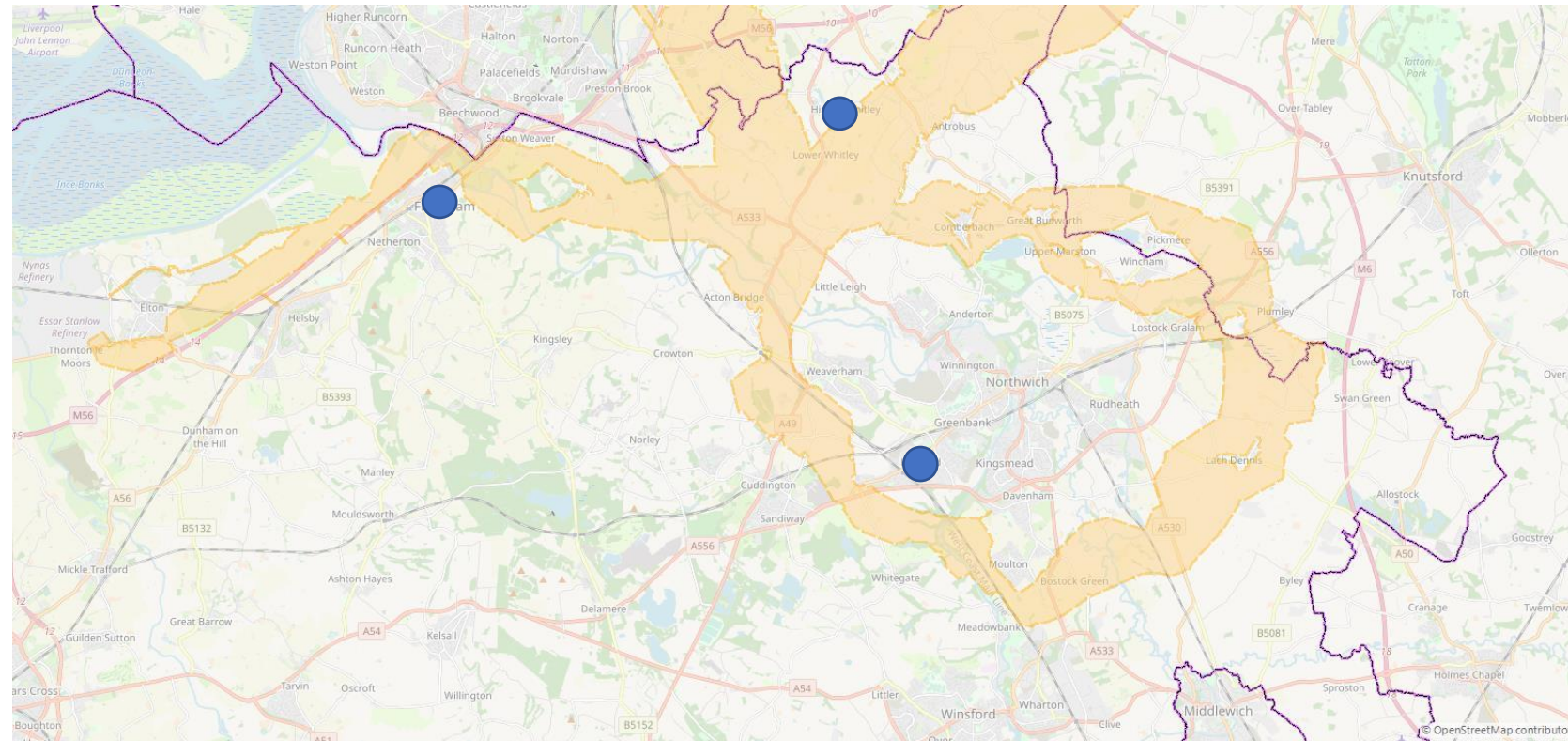
Making information available

- The project website will be the central hub for information
- We intend to provide reference copies of our materials in public locations within the project area. We will also put up posters publicising the consultation at these venues. Within Cheshire West and Chester, we are considering:
 - Hartford Village Hall, 244 Chester Road, Hartford, Northwich CW8 1LW**Are there any other venues we should consider that would be suitable for either reference materials or posters publicising the consultation?**
- Across the project area, we will hold eight in-person consultation events and two online webinars in total. These events will be an opportunity for people to 'drop in' and ask any questions they may have about the project. They will be staffed by members of the project team from a range of disciplines. Each event will be three hours and will be arranged on different days and times to give people as much opportunity as possible to attend.

In Cheshire West and Chester, we intend to hold one event (listed and pictured below):

- Hartford Village Hall, 244 Chester Road, Hartford, Northwich CW8 1LW
- Whitley Village Hall, Village Lane, Higher Whitley, Warrington WA4 4EJ
- Frodsham Community Centre, Fluin Ln, Frodsham WA6 7QN

Do you have any comments on the venues we are proposing or our approach to consultation events?



Additional stakeholder groups

We're currently in the process of identifying all of the stakeholders – local, regional and national – that we'll engage with during our consultations. Part of this will include identifying local interest groups and those that may not normally take part in consultations or require support to engage fully. This work is ongoing but please let us know if:

- **There are any specific local interest groups we should engage with?**
- **There are any specific seldom heard groups / hard to reach groups?**
- **The council has a community engagement officer (or other officer) that we can work with as the project develops?**

The planning process, next steps and how we'll work together

We're currently at an early stage in the project. We're carrying out detailed technical assessments to understand more about the areas we're working in. This information is helping us to develop potential route corridors for the pipeline. We will publish more information in January.

HyNet North West Hydrogen Pipeline is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP). This means we will have to apply to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy for a Development Consent Order (DCO).

As part of the DCO process, we will be carrying out consultation with stakeholders and local communities. We currently expect to carry out two stages of consultation (as outlined above). The first of which will begin 26 January, run for six weeks, and end 18 March. These consultations will give local authorities and residents ample opportunity to understand more about our proposals, provide feedback and influence our proposals.

Staying in touch

As we develop our proposals it's important to us that we maintain regular communication with you. We will always keep you updated and fully informed about what we're doing. Should you have any questions, require further information, or have questions or feedback on any of the above, please get in touch with us via the below channels:

- Email: info@hynethydrogenpipeline.co.uk
- Phone: 0800 860 6261
- You can also register for updates via our website: hynethydrogenpipeline.co.uk/keep-in-touch/

Cadent's HyNet North West Hydrogen Pipeline Overview of non-statutory consultation approach in St Helens

Project overview

The [HyNet North West Hydrogen Pipeline](#) will help unlock an energy revolution that will decarbonise the North West. Our project will put in place the infrastructure to deliver clean hydrogen power to industry, and blended hydrogen power to homes across the region. It is an essential part of [HyNet North West](#) – an innovative project that will produce, store and distribute hydrogen as well as capture and store carbon from industry across the region.

We are developing a network of underground pipelines that will take hydrogen produced at Essar's Stanlow Manufacturing Complex to a number of industrial users and blending stations across the North West. We'll also be connecting into an existing gas storage facility near Northwich. Our pipelines will be underground, although we will need some above ground installations.

Consulting on the proposals

How we communicate our proposals and gather feedback is important to us. Our consultation approach has been developed so as to maximise understanding and awareness of our proposals in your area and encourage engagement from local people and other groups.

Feedback from residents of St Helens, their representatives and other stakeholders will be important in helping us refine the project design and understand more about the local area.

We intend to carry out two stages of public consultation as part of the pre-application stage of our Development Consent Order application. The first of these will be a non-statutory consultation on the route corridors we have identified for a potential pipeline route, which will take place in Q1 2022. This consultation will run for six weeks.

We will hold a further, statutory consultation on a preferred route for the pipeline (and our Preliminary Environmental Information) later in 2022. We'll also consult with the council on our Statement of Community Consultation.

What we would like from you

This document sets out an overview of our consultation approach, along with the specific activities we intend to carry out in St Helens Council. We're still in the process of finalising this approach and welcome your thoughts on how we intend to consult. Below we have identified some specific areas and questions we'd welcome your input on. However, if there is anything else you think we should consider, we'd be happy to do this.

Please provide comments in whatever format is most convenient, via info@hynethydrogenpipeline.co.uk. We'd also be happy to organise a meeting to discuss further.

Indicative consultation zone within St Helens Council

Publicising the consultation

- At the launch of consultation we will ensure that people can find out more about our project through a range of channels.
- Outside of this direct consultation we will also be using a range of releases. This advertising will be targeted and engaging with in your area:
 - Mid Cheshire Guardian
 - Liverpool Echo / Mersey Daily

Are there any other public venues that we can provide content for?

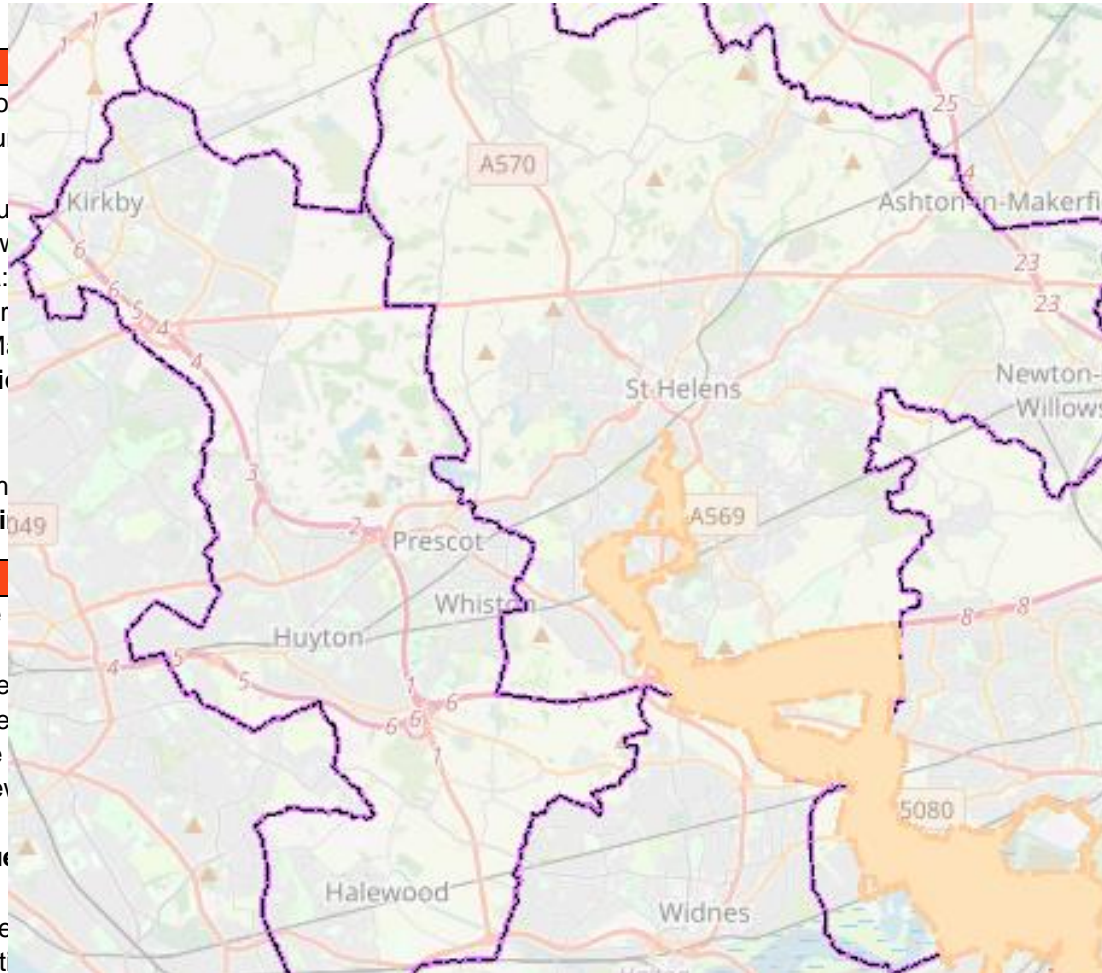
- We will also carry out promotional events at the consultation via its existing channels.

Making information available

- The project website will be the primary source of information for the public.
- We intend to provide reference copies of the consultation at these venues. Within St Helens:
 - St Helens Library, The Strand
 - Rainhill Library, 15 View Road

Are there any other venues that we can provide content for?

- Across the project area, we will be holding a series of 'drop in' events where people can 'drop in' and ask any questions they have. Each event will be three hours and will be arranged on different days and times to give people as



(e) directly to tell them how they

h paid-for adverts and press
ications we are considering

al) that we may be able to

g to share content about the

ers publicising the consultation at

ublicising the consultation?

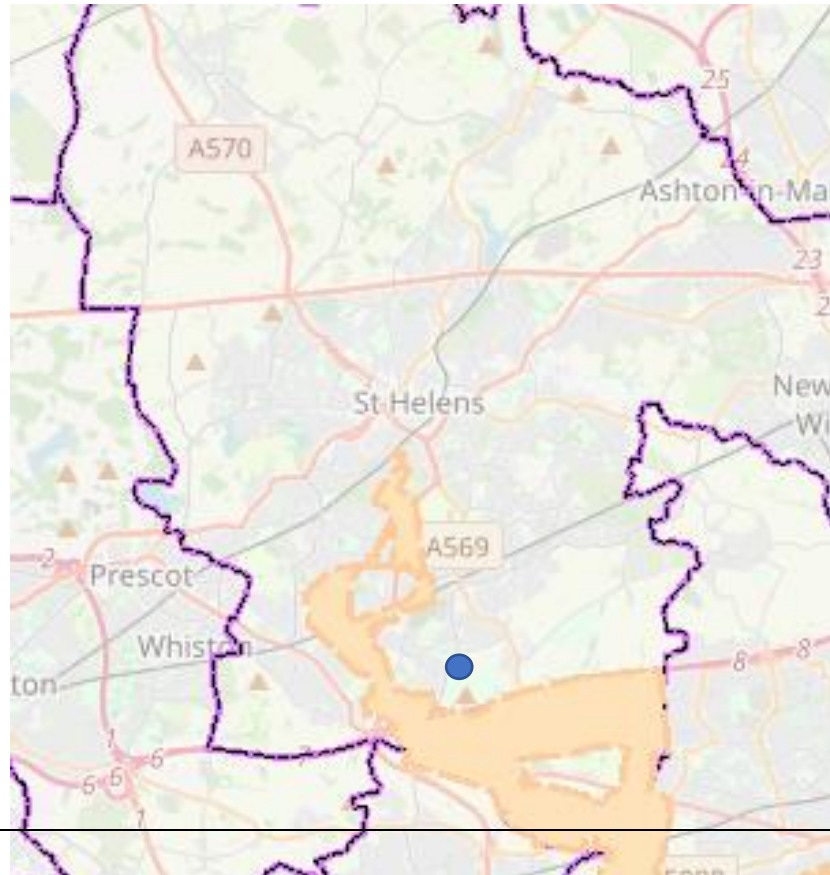
will be an opportunity for people to
n a range of disciplines. Each

as much opportunity as possible to attend.

In St Helens Council, we intend to hold one event (listed and pictured below):

- The Shining Lights Community Centre, Saint Helens WA9 4AT

Do you have any comments on the venues we are proposing or our approach to consultation events?



Additional stakeholder groups

We're currently in the process of identifying all of the stakeholders – local, regional and national – that we'll engage with during our consultations. Part of this will include identifying local interest groups and those that may not normally take part in consultations or require support to engage fully. This work is ongoing but please let us know if:

- **There are any specific local interest groups we should engage with?**
- **There are any specific seldom heard groups / hard to reach groups?**
- **The council has a community engagement officer (or other officer) that we can work with as the project develops?**

The planning process, next steps and how we'll work together

We're currently at an early stage in the project. We're carrying out detailed technical assessments to understand more about the areas we're working in. This information is helping us to develop potential route corridors for the pipeline. We will publish more information in January.

HyNet North West Hydrogen Pipeline is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP). This means we will have to apply to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy for a Development Consent Order (DCO).

As part of the DCO process, we will be carrying out consultation with stakeholders and local communities. We currently expect to carry out two stages of consultation (as outlined above). The first of which will begin 26 January, run for six weeks, and end 18 March. These consultations will give local authorities and residents ample opportunity to understand more about our proposals, provide feedback and influence our proposals.

Staying in touch

As we develop our proposals it's important to us that we maintain regular communication with you. We will always keep you updated and fully informed about what we're doing. Should you have any questions, require further information, or have questions or feedback on any of the above, please get in touch with us via the below channels:

- Email: info@hynethydrogenpipeline.co.uk
- Phone: 0800 860 6261
- You can also register for updates via our website: hynethydrogenpipeline.co.uk/keep-in-touch/

Cadent's HyNet North West Hydrogen Pipeline Overview of non-statutory consultation approach in Halton Borough Council

Project overview

The [HyNet North West Hydrogen Pipeline](#) will help unlock an energy revolution that will decarbonise the North West. Our project will put in place the infrastructure to deliver clean hydrogen power to industry, and blended hydrogen power to homes across the region. It is an essential part of [HyNet North West](#) – an innovative project that will produce, store and distribute hydrogen as well as capture and store carbon from industry across the region.

We are developing a network of underground pipelines that will take hydrogen produced at Essar's Stanlow Manufacturing Complex to a number of industrial users and blending stations across the North West. We'll also be connecting into an existing gas storage facility near Northwich. Our pipelines will be underground, although we will need some above ground installations.

Consulting on the proposals

How we communicate our proposals and gather feedback is important to us. Our consultation approach has been developed so as to maximise understanding and awareness of our proposals in your area and encourage engagement from local people and other groups.

Feedback from residents of Halton, their representatives and other stakeholders will be important in helping us refine the project design and understand more about the local area.

We intend to carry out two stages of public consultation as part of the pre-application stage of our Development Consent Order application. The first of these will be a non-statutory consultation on the route corridors we have identified for a potential pipeline route, which will take place in Q1 2022. This consultation will run for six weeks.

We will hold a further, statutory consultation on a preferred route for the pipeline (and our Preliminary Environmental Information) later in 2022. We'll also consult with the council on our Statement of Community Consultation.

What we would like from you

This document sets out an overview of our consultation approach, along with the specific activities we intend to carry out in Halton Borough Council. We're still in the process of finalising this approach and welcome your thoughts on how we intend to consult. Below we have identified some specific areas and questions we'd welcome your input on. However, if there is anything else you think we should consider, we'd be happy to do this.

Please provide comments in whatever format is most convenient, via info@hynethydrogenpipeline.co.uk. We'd also be happy to organise a meeting to discuss further.

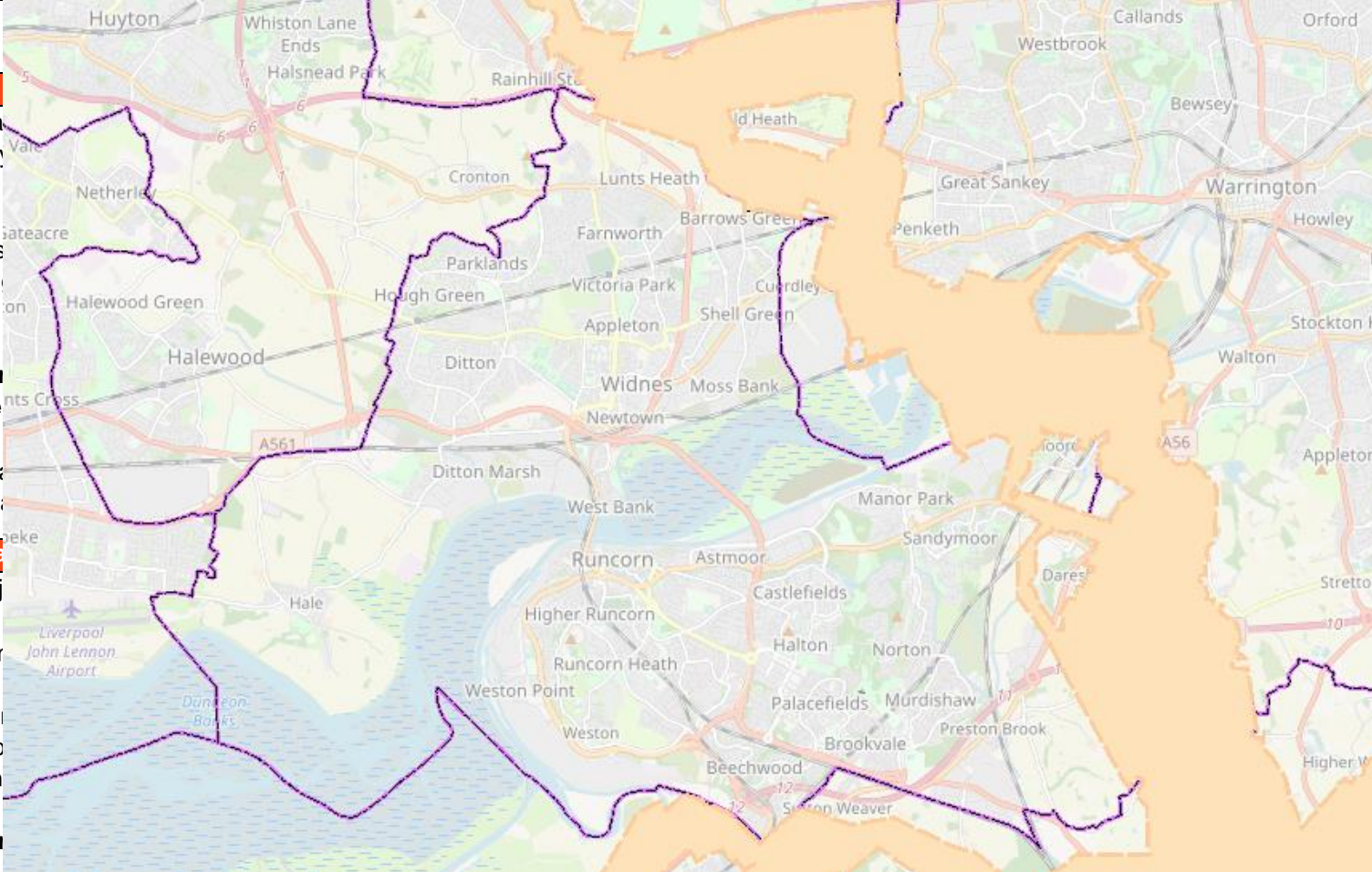
Indicative consultation zone within Halton Borough Council

Publicising the

- At the la how they
- Outside releases engagin
 -
 -
- Are the provide
- We will consult

Making informa

- The proj
- We inter at these
 - Wid
 - Moc
 - Run
- Are the



to tell them

ts and press
sidering

be able to

ent about the

ne consultation

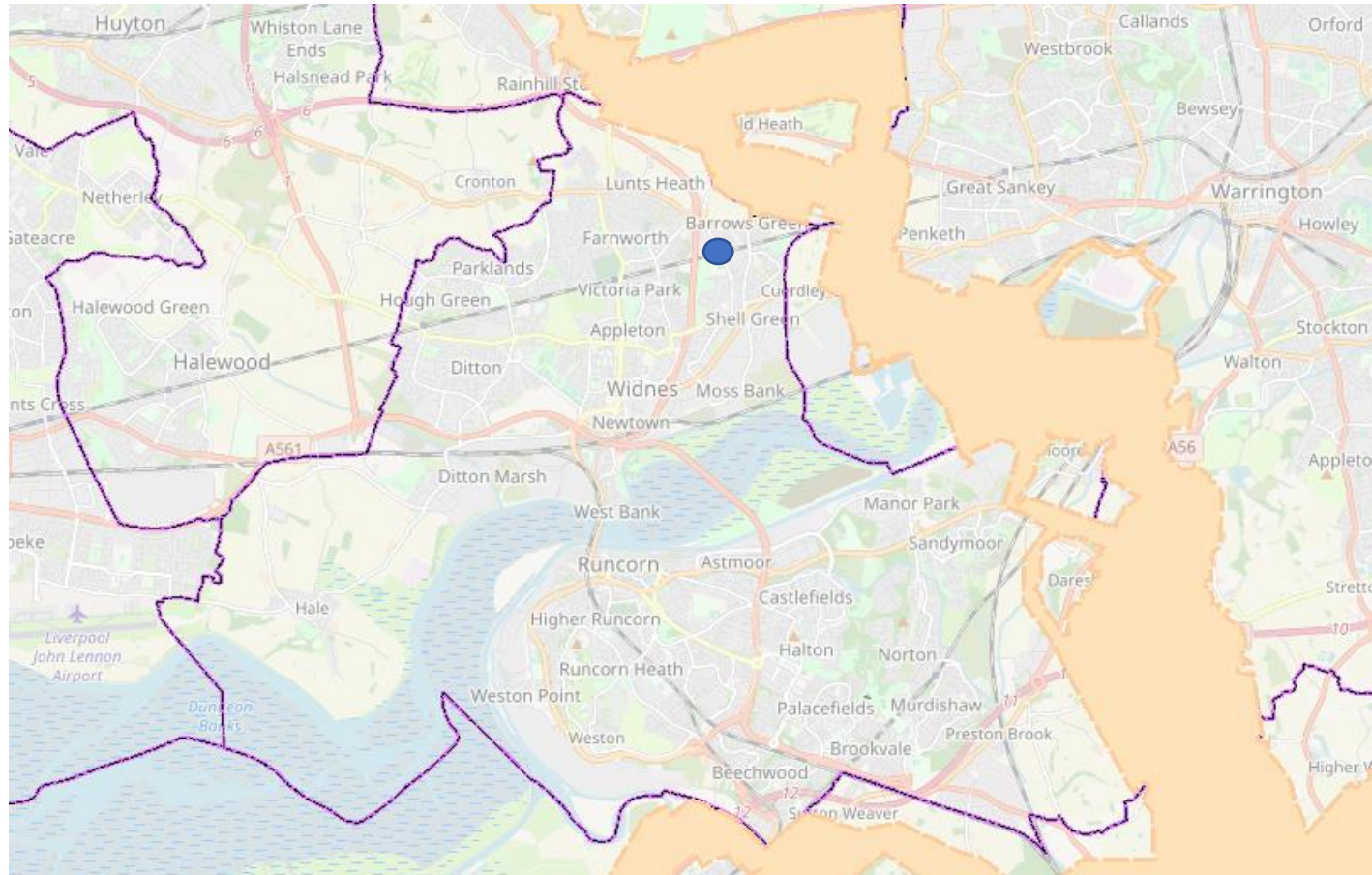
consultation?

- Across the project area, we will hold eight in-person consultation events and two online webinars in total. These events will be an opportunity for people to 'drop in' and ask any questions they may have about the project. They will be staffed by members of the project team from a range of disciplines. Each event will be three hours and will be arranged on different days and times to give people as much opportunity as possible to attend.

In Halton Borough Council, we intend to hold one event (listed and pictured below):

- Moorfield Sports and Social Club, Moorfield Road, Widnes WA8 3HQ

Do you have any comments on the venues we are proposing or our approach to consultation events?



Additional stakeholder groups

We're currently in the process of identifying all of the stakeholders – local, regional and national – that we'll engage with during our consultations. Part of this will include identifying local interest groups and those that may not normally take part in consultations or require support to engage fully. This work is ongoing but please let us know if:

- **There are any specific local interest groups we should engage with?**
- **There are any specific seldom heard groups / hard to reach groups?**
- **The council has a community engagement officer (or other officer) that we can work with as the project develops?**

The planning process, next steps and how we'll work together

We're currently at an early stage in the project. We're carrying out detailed technical assessments to understand more about the areas we're working in. This information is helping us to develop potential route corridors for the pipeline. We will publish more information in January.

HyNet North West Hydrogen Pipeline is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP). This means we will have to apply to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy for a Development Consent Order (DCO).

As part of the DCO process, we will be carrying out consultation with stakeholders and local communities. We currently expect to carry out two stages of consultation (as outlined above). The first of which will begin 26 January, run for six weeks, and end 18 March. These consultations will give local authorities and residents ample opportunity to understand more about our proposals, provide feedback and influence our proposals.

Staying in touch

As we develop our proposals it's important to us that we maintain regular communication with you. We will always keep you updated and fully informed about what we're doing. Should you have any questions, require further information, or have questions or feedback on any of the above, please get in touch with us via the below channels:

- Email: info@hynethydrogenpipeline.co.uk
- Phone: 0800 860 6261
- You can also register for updates via our website: hynethydrogenpipeline.co.uk/keep-in-touch/

Cadent's HyNet North West Hydrogen Pipeline Overview of non-statutory consultation approach in Trafford District Council

Project overview

The [HyNet North West Hydrogen Pipeline](#) will help unlock an energy revolution that will decarbonise the North West. Our project will put in place the infrastructure to deliver clean hydrogen power to industry, and blended hydrogen power to homes across the region. It is an essential part of [HyNet North West](#) – an innovative project that will produce, store and distribute hydrogen as well as capture and store carbon from industry across the region.

We are developing a network of underground pipelines that will take hydrogen produced at Essar's Stanlow Manufacturing Complex to a number of industrial users and blending stations across the North West. We'll also be connecting into an existing gas storage facility near Northwich. Our pipelines will be underground, although we will need some above ground installations.

Consulting on the proposals

How we communicate our proposals and gather feedback is important to us. Our consultation approach has been developed so as to maximise understanding and awareness of our proposals in your area and encourage engagement from local people and other groups.

Feedback from residents of Trafford District Council, their representatives and other stakeholders will be important in helping us refine the project design and understand more about the local area.

We intend to carry out two stages of public consultation as part of the pre-application stage of our Development Consent Order application. The first of these will be a non-statutory consultation on the route corridors we have identified for a potential pipeline route, which will take place in Q1 2022. This consultation will run for six weeks.

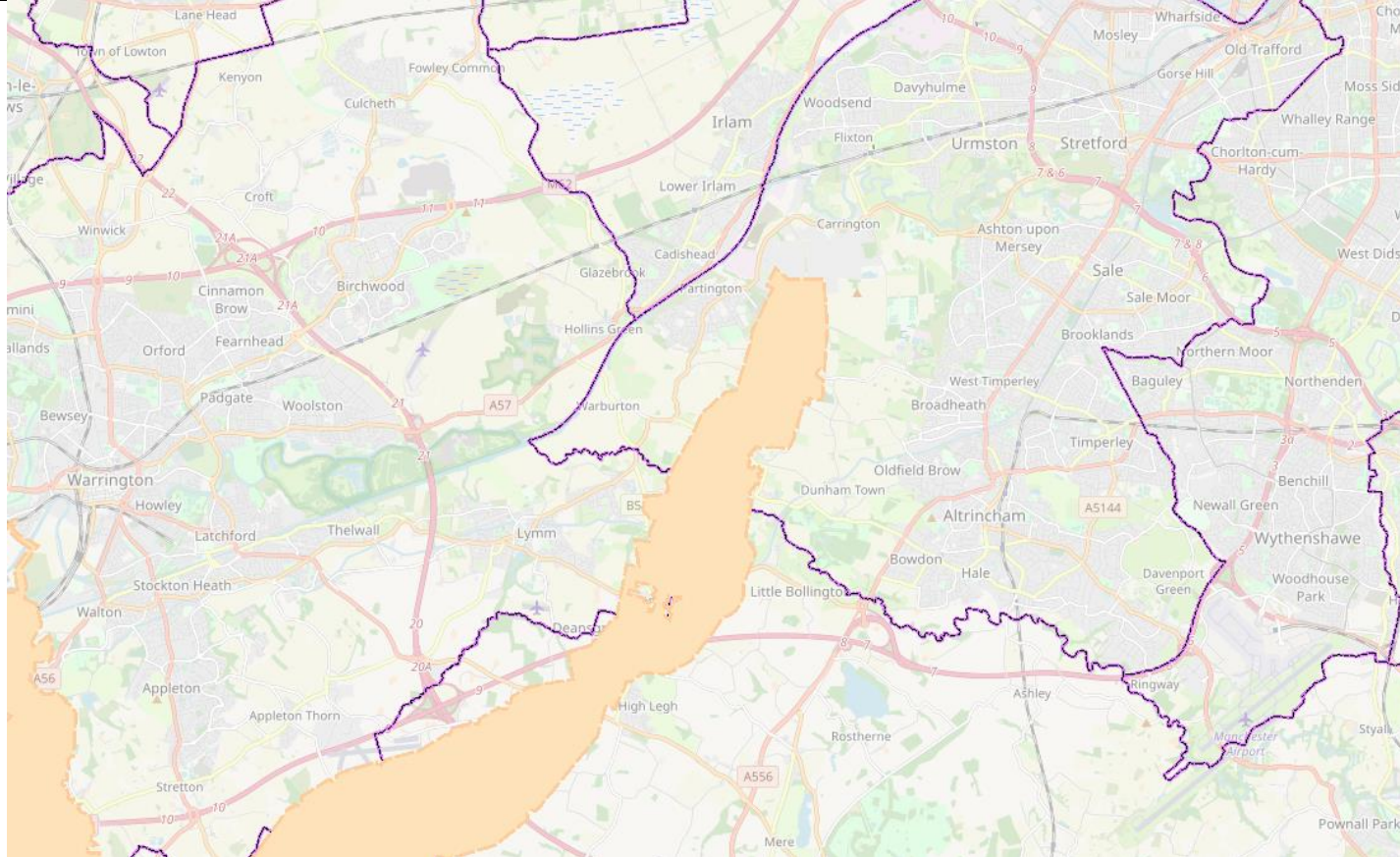
We will hold a further, statutory consultation on a preferred route for the pipeline (and our Preliminary Environmental Information) later in 2022. We'll also consult with the council on our Statement of Community Consultation.

What we would like from you

This document sets out an overview of our consultation approach, along with the specific activities we intend to carry out in Trafford District. We're still in the process of finalising this approach and welcome your thoughts on how we intend to consult. Below we have identified some specific areas and questions we'd welcome your input on. However, if there is anything else you think we should consider, we'd be happy to do this.

Please provide comments in whatever format is most convenient, via info@hynethydrogenpipeline.co.uk. We'd also be happy to organise a meeting to discuss further.

Indicative consultation zone within Trafford District Council



THIS MAP IS INDICATIVE ONLY

Publicising the consultation

- At the launch of consultation, we will write to residents in Trafford that are within our consultation zone (as above) directly to tell them how they can find out more about our proposals and provide feedback.
- Outside of this direct consultation zone, we will publicise the consultation periods and events via print and online – through paid-for adverts and press releases. This advertising will be targeted at the entire region, including residents within Trafford District Council. Publications we are considering engaging with in your area:
 - Mid Cheshire Guardian series (print)
 - Liverpool Echo / Manchester Evening News (digital)**Are there any other publications we should consider? Does the council have any publications (internal or external) that we may be able to provide content for?**
- We will also carry out promotion of the consultation via social media and online advertising. **Would the council be willing to share content about the consultation via its existing channels? If so, please could you advise the best person to contact about this.**

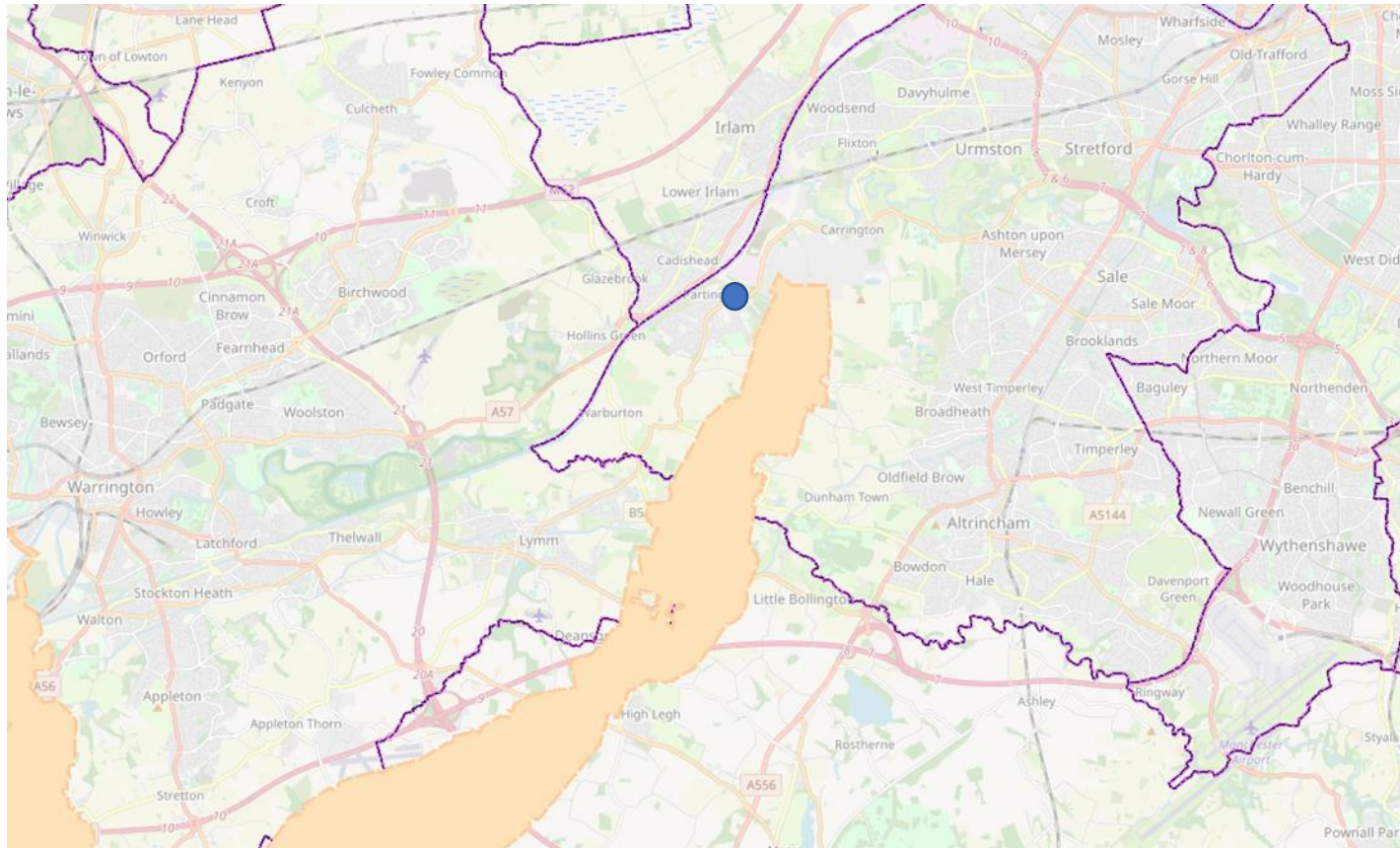
Making information available

- The project website will be the central hub for information
- We intend to provide reference copies of our materials in public locations within the project area. We will also put up posters publicising the consultation at these venues. Within Trafford, we are considering:
 - Altrincham Library, 2 Pott St, Altrincham WA14 1AH
 - Partington Library, 91 Central Rd, Partington, Manchester M31 4FY
 - Partington Community Centre, Central Road, Partington, Manchester M31 4FL**Are there any other venues we should consider that would be suitable for either reference materials or posters publicising the consultation?**
- Across the project area, we will hold eight in-person consultation events and two online webinars in total. These events will be an opportunity for people to 'drop in' and ask any questions they may have about the project. They will be staffed by members of the project team from a range of disciplines. Each event will be three hours and will be arranged on different days and times to give people as much opportunity as possible to attend.

In Trafford District Council, we intend to hold one event (listed and pictured below):

- Partington Community Centre, Central Road, Partington M31 4FL

Do you have any comments on the venues we are proposing or our approach to consultation events?



Additional stakeholder groups

We're currently in the process of identifying all of the stakeholders – local, regional and national – that we'll engage with during our consultations. Part of this will include identifying local interest groups and those that may not normally take part in consultations or require support to engage fully. This work is ongoing but please let us know if:

- **There are any specific local interest groups we should engage with?**
- **There are any specific seldom heard groups / hard to reach groups?**
- **The council has a community engagement officer (or other officer) that we can work with as the project develops?**

The planning process, next steps and how we'll work together

We're currently at an early stage in the project. We're carrying out detailed technical assessments to understand more about the areas we're working in. This information is helping us to develop potential route corridors for the pipeline. We will publish more information in January.

HyNet North West Hydrogen Pipeline is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP). This means we will have to apply to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy for a Development Consent Order (DCO).

As part of the DCO process, we will be carrying out consultation with stakeholders and local communities. We currently expect to carry out two stages of consultation (as outlined above). The first of which will begin 26 January, run for six weeks, and end 18 March. These consultations will give local authorities and residents ample opportunity to understand more about our proposals, provide feedback and influence our proposals.

Staying in touch

As we develop our proposals it's important to us that we maintain regular communication with you. We will always keep you updated and fully informed about what we're doing. Should you have any questions, require further information, or have questions or feedback on any of the above, please get in touch with us via the below channels:

- Email: info@hynethydrogenpipeline.co.uk
- Phone: 0800 860 6261
- You can also register for updates via our website: hynethydrogenpipeline.co.uk/keep-in-touch/

Cadent's HyNet North West Hydrogen Pipeline Overview of non-statutory consultation approach in Warrington Borough Council

Project overview

The [HyNet North West Hydrogen Pipeline](#) will help unlock an energy revolution that will decarbonise the North West. Our project will put in place the infrastructure to deliver clean hydrogen power to industry, and blended hydrogen power to homes across the region. It is an essential part of [HyNet North West](#) – an innovative project that will produce, store and distribute hydrogen as well as capture and store carbon from industry across the region.

We are developing a network of underground pipelines that will take hydrogen produced at Essar's Stanlow Manufacturing Complex to a number of industrial users and blending stations across the North West. We'll also be connecting into an existing gas storage facility near Northwich. Our pipelines will be underground, although we will need some above ground installations.

Consulting on the proposals

How we communicate our proposals and gather feedback is important to us. Our consultation approach has been developed so as to maximise understanding and awareness of our proposals in your area and encourage engagement from local people and other groups.

Feedback from residents of Warrington Borough Council, their representatives and other stakeholders will be important in helping us refine the project design and understand more about the local area.

We intend to carry out two stages of public consultation as part of the pre-application stage of our Development Consent Order application. The first of these will be a non-statutory consultation on the route corridors we have identified for a potential pipeline route, which will take place in Q1 2022. This consultation will run for six weeks.

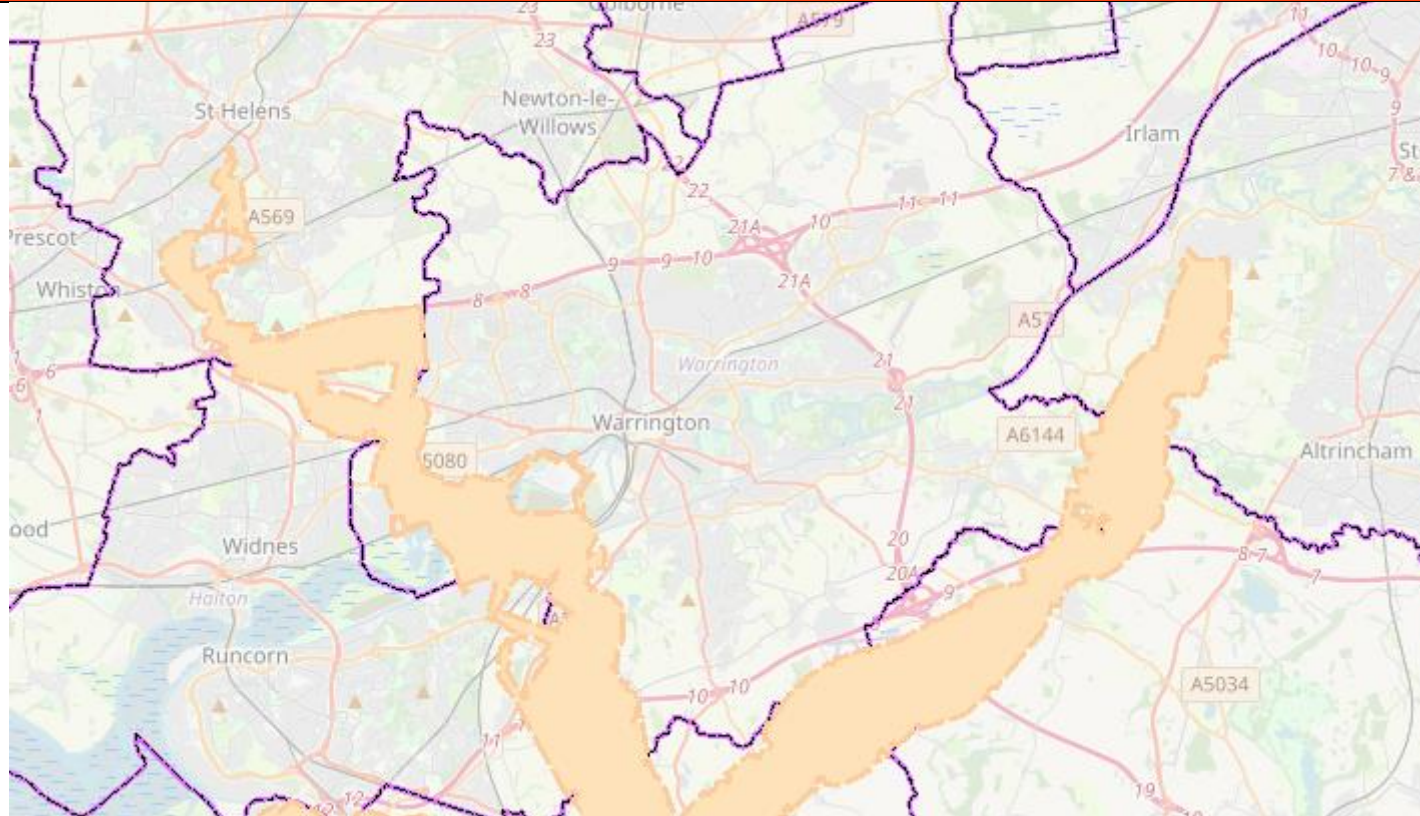
We will hold a further, statutory consultation on a preferred route for the pipeline (and our Preliminary Environmental Information) later in 2022. We'll also consult with the council on our Statement of Community Consultation.

What we would like from you

This document sets out an overview of our consultation approach, along with the specific activities we intend to carry out in Warrington Borough Council. We're still in the process of finalising this approach and welcome your thoughts on how we intend to consult. Below we have identified some specific areas and questions we'd welcome your input on. However, if there is anything else you think we should consider, we'd be happy to do this.

Please provide comments in whatever format is most convenient, via info@hynethydrogenpipeline.co.uk. We'd also be happy to organise a meeting to discuss further.

Indicative consultation zone within Warrington Borough Council



THIS MAP IS INDICATIVE ONLY

Publicising the consultation

- At the launch of consultation, we will write to residents of Warrington Borough Council that are within our consultation zone (as above) directly to tell them how they can find out more about our proposals and provide feedback.
- Outside of this direct consultation zone, we will publicise the consultation periods and events via print and online – through paid-for adverts and press releases. This advertising will be targeted at the entire region, including residents within Warrington Borough Council. Publications we are considering engaging with in your area:
 - Mid Cheshire Guardian series (print)
 - Liverpool Echo / Manchester Evening News (digital)**Are there any other publications we should consider? Does the council have any publications (internal or external) that we may be able to provide content for?**
- We will also carry out promotion of the consultation via social media and online advertising. **Would the council be willing to share content about the consultation via its existing channels? If so, please could you advise the best person to contact about this.**

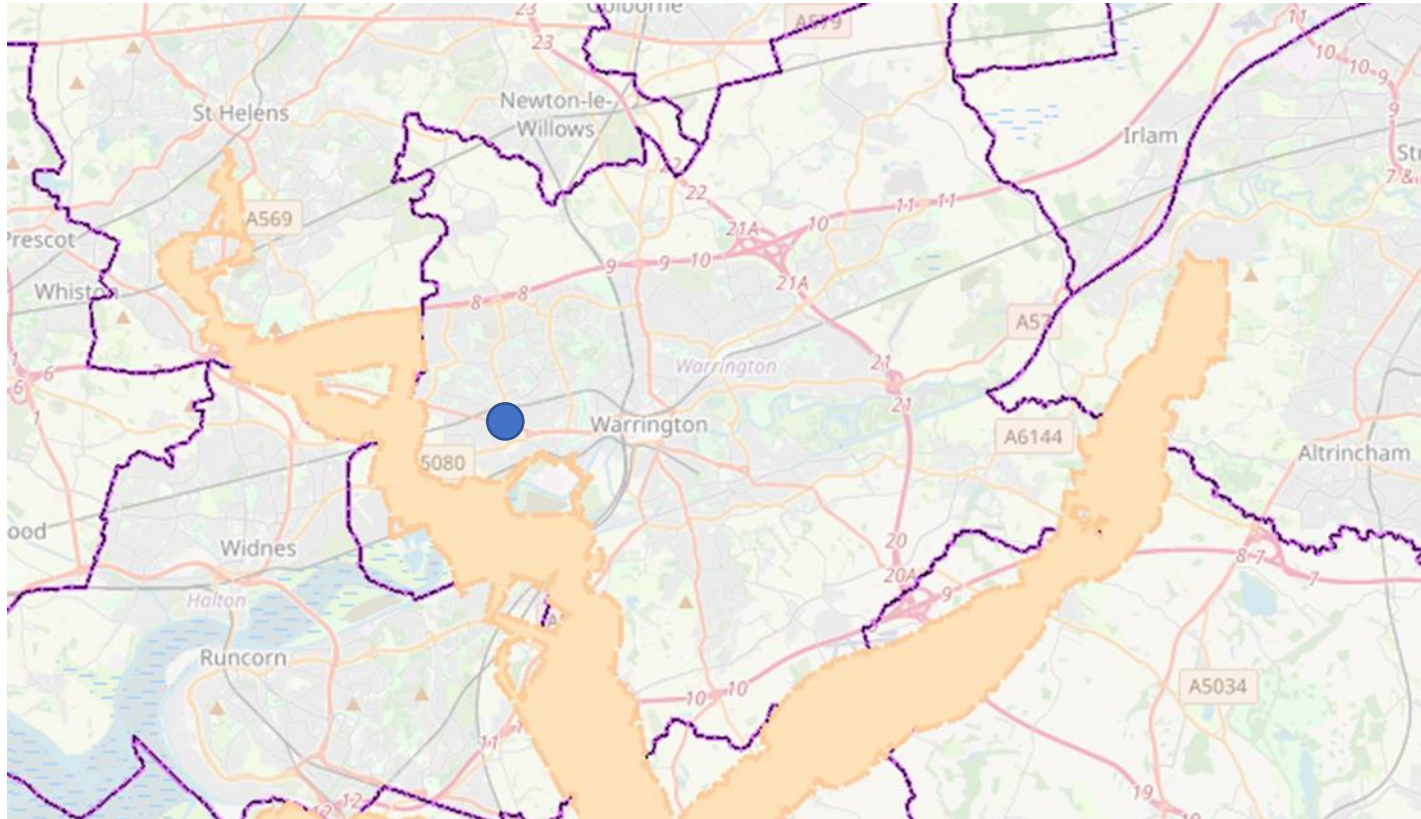
Making information available

- The project website will be the central hub for information
- We intend to provide reference copies of our materials in public locations within the project area. We will also put up posters publicising the consultation at these venues. Within Warrington Borough Council, we are considering:
 - Warrington Library, Golden Square, Sankey St, Warrington WA1 1TD
 - Meeting Lane Community Centre, Meeting Lane, Warrington WA5 2QX
 - Friends Of Grappenhall Library, Victoria Ave, Grappenhall, Warrington WA4 2PF
 - Lymm Library, off Davies Way, Brookfield Rd, Lymm WA13 0QW**Are there any other venues we should consider that would be suitable for either reference materials or posters publicising the consultation?**
- Across the project area, we will hold eight in-person consultation events and two online webinars in total. These events will be an opportunity for people to ‘drop in’ and ask any questions they may have about the project. They will be staffed by members of the project team from a range of disciplines. Each event will be three hours and will be arranged on different days and times to give people as much opportunity as possible to attend.

In Warrington Borough Council, we intend to hold one event (listed and pictured below):

- o Meeting Lane Community Centre, Meeting Lane, Warrington WA5 2QX

Do you have any comments on the venues we are proposing or our approach to consultation events?



Additional stakeholder groups

We're currently in the process of identifying all of the stakeholders – local, regional and national – that we'll engage with during our consultations. Part of this will include identifying local interest groups and those that may not normally take part in consultations or require support to engage fully. This work is ongoing but please let us know if:

- **There are any specific local interest groups we should engage with?**
- **There are any specific seldom heard groups / hard to reach groups?**
- **The council has a community engagement officer (or other officer) that we can work with as the project develops?**

The planning process, next steps and how we'll work together

We're currently at an early stage in the project. We're carrying out detailed technical assessments to understand more about the areas we're working in. This information is helping us to develop potential route corridors for the pipeline. We will publish more information in January.

HyNet North West Hydrogen Pipeline is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP). This means we will have to apply to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy for a Development Consent Order (DCO).

As part of the DCO process, we will be carrying out consultation with stakeholders and local communities. We currently expect to carry out two stages of consultation (as outlined above). The first of which will begin 26 January, run for six weeks, and end 18 March. These consultations will give local authorities and residents ample opportunity to understand more about our proposals, provide feedback and influence our proposals.

Staying in touch

As we develop our proposals it's important to us that we maintain regular communication with you. We will always keep you updated and fully informed about what we're doing. Should you have any questions, require further information, or have questions or feedback on any of the above, please get in touch with us via the below channels:

- Email: info@hynethydrogenpipeline.co.uk
- Phone: 0800 860 6261
- You can also register for updates via our website: hynethydrogenpipeline.co.uk/keep-in-touch/

Appendix B Host Authority Responses to Engagement and Consultation Strategy

Subject: Re: Hynet North West Hydrogen Pipeline Host Authorities Meeting

Sent: 24/01/2022, 17:37:01

From: [REDACTED]@sthelens.gov.uk>

To:

Cc:

Hi [REDACTED]

The session can definitely be held at St Helens Library in The World of Glass. We are just liaising with the building manager to see if we can utilise the foyer space close to the library so that you can catch both library and visitors to the museum too.

Either myself or [REDACTED] copied in will confirm tomorrow for you.

Hope that's OK, thanks

[REDACTED]
Library Services Manager – Place Services
St Helens Borough Council

E-Mail: [REDACTED]@sthelens.gov.uk | Tel: [REDACTED] | Website: www.sthelens.gov.uk

From: [REDACTED] >

Sent: 24 January 2022 17:15

To: [REDACTED]@sthelens.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: Hynet North West Hydrogen Pipeline Host Authorities Meeting

CAUTION: This email may be from an unknown source. Do not reply, click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Good afternoon [REDACTED]

I work with [REDACTED] and am just wanting to follow up on the below.

We are hoping to secure bookings by this Wednesday (26th), so we can publish information about the events on our website.

Do you think you will be able to provide a proposal by then?

If you need to talk any of the arrangements through, my mobile number is- [REDACTED].

Thanks again for all your help with this.

Kind regards

From: [REDACTED]@sthelens.gov.uk>

Sent: 21 January 2022 17:47

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED] >

Subject: Re: Hynet North West Hydrogen Pipeline Host Authorities Meeting

This is the first time you've received an email from this sender. Make sure this is someone you trust.

Leave it with me [REDACTED] and I will work up a proposal based on that date. I'm sure I can sort something out for you. I'll be in touch next week, thanks

[REDACTED]
Library Services Manager – Place Services
St Helens Borough Council

E-Mail: [REDACTED]@sthelens.gov.uk | Tel: [REDACTED] | Website: www.sthelens.gov.uk

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 21 January 2022 17:43

To: [REDACTED]@sthelens.gov.uk>

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Hynet North West Hydrogen Pipeline Host Authorities Meeting

CAUTION: This email may be from an unknown source. Do not reply, click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi [REDACTED]

Thanks for the quick response and that's not a problem. We could do the same times on Thursday 24 Feb if that is an option? Alternatively if that doesn't work, if you could provide some venues and slots that would, we can review our existing programme and try to work around the events we already have booked.

We're also happy to take your advice on what has worked in the past. We do have some exhibition panels that we'd like to put up so we'd need a bit of space for that, but again, I'm sure we can be flexible.

We'll put a plan together for reference materials and get back to you early next week if that's OK?

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@sthelens.gov.uk>

Sent: 21 January 2022 17:33

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Subject: Re: Hynet North West Hydrogen Pipeline Host Authorities Meeting

This is the first time you've received an email from this sender. Make sure this is someone you trust.

Hi [REDACTED]

I apologise that you haven't been able to secure a session in any of my libraries, and I'm afraid I'm about to disappoint you further. Libraries do not currently open on Wednesdays, apart from St Helens Library in The World of Glass which is open 10am - 1pm.

Is there an alternative date you could give me? In terms of other consultation events we have run in the past, utilising the library space rather than a community room works well. That way you can engage with people as they come into the library.

In terms of documents that the public can consult, there are 12 libraries across the Borough, opening hours and locations are on the attachment. If you can't get documents direct to each site, they can all be sent to Chester Lane Library and we will distribute on your behalf. We also have plasma screens in each library so if you have JPEG/PDF versions of the documents, I can arrange they are displayed.

Please advise how you would like to proceed in relation to a consultation event, thanks.

[REDACTED]

Library Services Manager – Place Services

St Helens Borough Council

E-Mail: [REDACTED]@sthelens.gov.uk | Tel: [REDACTED] | Website: www.sthelens.gov.uk

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 21 January 2022 17:21

To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@sthelens.gov.uk>

Cc: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Hynet North West Hydrogen Pipeline Host Authorities Meeting

CAUTION: This email may be from an unknown source. Do not reply, click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Afternoon [REDACTED]

Further to the emails below, we'd welcome any support you can provide in securing a location for our consultation event in a suitable venue in St Helens. We've explored the options of Thatto Heath Library, Chester Lane Library and St Helens Library but been informed we could not hold an event there.

We are looking to hold then event from 11am-4pm on Wednesday 23 Feb . The format of the event will be drop-in, so we'll require a room that can hold around 30 people (in reality, we don't expect that many at one time but need to plan for that eventuality). Thatto Heath Library did advise that they didn't have a large enough room.

Please could you liaise with my colleague [REDACTED] (cc'd) on further arrangements?

We'd also be happy to provide reference copies of our materials and consultation posters for venues. If you could provide a list of venues you'd like us to include, we'll arrange for materials to be sent at the launch of consultation.

Additionally, if you or [REDACTED] have any further ways we can promote the consultation, we'd be more than happy to consider these.

Thanks

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 21 January 2022 17:17

To: S [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@sthelens.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Hynet North West Hydrogen Pipeline Host Authorities Meeting

Afternoon [REDACTED]

Thanks again for your time yesterday and for the follow up email, we appreciate the council's interest in our work.

Please find responses on behalf of the project team, below. We hope this is all OK but please let us know any further questions.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

- Consultation material – as per my previous email, could we see copies of the consultation material for comment upon before distribution please?
We're grateful for all the comments from local authorities that have helped shape our approach and materials. Our view, though, is that we should not share specific materials in advance. This ensures an appropriate space between the promoter and Local Planning Authorities. It also ensures we provide a consistent approach across the project area, ensuring each LPA gets information at the same time, and encourages comments on the proposals during the formal consultation period. Please be assured though, that all materials have been developed to be accessible to members of the public, without any prior knowledge of the project or infrastructure development.
We'll also have a range of project contact details so that we can provide further information or answer any questions residents may have.
We will of course take into account any consultation feedback we get relating to our consultation approach and can consider this as we develop plans for our second stage.
- Drop-in events – as per my previous email we have provided advice on suitable locations, and reaffirm that the venue in Whiston (Knowsley Council area) shown on your map today will not be acceptable. Our Library Services Manager [REDACTED] (copied in) has agreed to liaise directly with you to accommodate at a suitable venue in St Helens and for the display of materials across a number of other sites. Could one of your team please contact [REDACTED] at the earliest opportunity?
We have explored opportunities to use a library in St Helens but have been advised by the team at the library that it would not be suitable. We are certainly keen to hold an event in St Helens and any support the council can provide on this front would be welcomed. We'll get in touch with [REDACTED] directly.
We'd also be happy to provide reference information to locations in the area.
- As per previous email (attached), I shared contact details for our Communications Manager [REDACTED] (copied in) and shall be grateful if you could liaise to ensure that these matters are suitably managed.
Of course, we'll include [REDACTED] in the above conversations.
- Could you also please confirm the intended coverage area for consultation materials?
We are writing directly to all residential and business addresses within the route corridor. We'll also directly contact community representatives (ward members, MPs, parish councils) representing these areas.
Beyond that, we'll be using wider press / social media activities to raise awareness of the project outside of the corridor. Information will be available to anyone on our website, such as the ones we'll discuss as per the above.
- As per previous email, could you also provide further definition to the corridor for the pipeline i.e. the red line you mentioned today?
We're happy to do that – we'll include a shapefile in the information we send over next week.
- As [REDACTED] advised today the local newspaper, St Helens Star, is more appropriate than the publications you mentioned and it is requested that it be used as part of the consultation strategy.
Thanks for your recommendation. Our plan includes providing a press release at key points during the consultation to the St Helens Star and a number of other locations. We'll explore options for additional advertising as well.

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@sthelens.gov.uk>

Sent: 20 January 2022 20:57

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Hynet North West Hydrogen Pipeline Host Authorities Meeting

Importance: High

Good evening [REDACTED]/All,

Thank you for the session this afternoon but I just wanted to confirm and follow up on the issues we discussed relating to St Helens:

- Consultation material – as per my previous email, could we see copies of the consultation material for comment upon before distribution please?
- Drop-in events – as per my previous email we have provided advice on suitable locations, and reaffirm that the venue in Whiston (Knowsley Council area) shown on your map today will not be acceptable. Our Library Services Manager [REDACTED] (copied in) has agreed to liaise directly with you to accommodate at a suitable venue in St Helens and for the display of materials across a number of other sites. Could one of your team please contact [REDACTED] at the earliest opportunity?
- As per previous email (attached), I shared contact details for our Communications Manager [REDACTED] (copied in) and shall be grateful if you could liaise to ensure that these matters are suitably managed.
- Could you also please confirm the intended coverage area for consultation materials?
- As per previous email, could you also provide further definition to the corridor for the pipeline i.e. the red line you mentioned today?
- As [REDACTED] advised today the local newspaper, St Helens Star, is more appropriate than the publications you mentioned and it is requested that it be used as part of the consultation strategy.

I hope this helps and shall be grateful for your earliest response to each issue given your envisaged consultation programme,.

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]
Director of Strategic Growth

Place Services | St.Helens Council | Town Hall | Corporation Street | St.Helens | Merseyside | WA10 1HP

Mobile: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]@sthelens.gov.uk

"This e-mail and any file transmitted with it are confidential, subject to copyright and intended solely for the use of the individual or entity to whom they are addressed. It may contain privileged information. Any unauthorised review, use, disclosure, distribution or publication is prohibited. If you have received this e-mail in error please contact the sender by reply e-mail and destroy and delete the message and all copies from your computer. The information contained in this email may be subject to public disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 or other legal duty. Any views or opinions expressed within this email are those of the author and may not necessarily reflect those of the Authority. No contractual arrangement is intended to arise from this communication."

--
This message has been checked by Libraesva ESG and is found to be clean.
[Mark it as spam](#)
[Blacklist sender](#)

"This e-mail and any file transmitted with it are confidential, subject to copyright and intended solely for the use of the individual or entity to whom they are addressed. It may contain privileged information. Any unauthorised review, use, disclosure, distribution or publication is prohibited. If you have received this e-mail in error please contact the sender by reply e-mail and destroy and delete the message and all copies from your computer. The information contained in this email may be subject to public disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 or other legal duty. Any views or opinions expressed within this email are those of the author and may not necessarily reflect those of the Authority. No contractual arrangement is intended to arise from this communication."

--
This message has been checked by Libraesva ESG and is found to be clean.
[Mark it as spam](#)
[Blacklist sender](#)

"This e-mail and any file transmitted with it are confidential, subject to copyright and intended solely for the use of the individual or entity to whom they are addressed. It may contain privileged information. Any unauthorised review, use, disclosure, distribution or publication is prohibited. If you have received this e-mail in error please contact the sender by reply e-mail and destroy and delete the message and all copies from your computer. The information contained in this email may be subject to public disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 or other legal duty. Any views or opinions expressed within this email are those of the author and may not necessarily reflect those of the Authority. No contractual arrangement is intended to arise from this communication."

--
[REDACTED]

"This e-mail and any file transmitted with it are confidential, subject to copyright and intended solely for the use of the individual or entity to whom they are addressed. It may contain privileged information. Any unauthorised review, use, disclosure, distribution or publication is prohibited. If you have received this e-mail in error please contact the sender by reply e-mail and destroy and delete the message and all copies from your computer. The information contained in this email may be subject to public disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 or other legal duty. Any views or opinions expressed within this email are those of the author and may not necessarily reflect those of the Authority. No contractual arrangement is intended to arise from this communication."

--
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@warrington.gov.uk>
Sent: 22 December 2021 10:52
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Hynet North West
Attachments: Cadent HNWHP consultation approach - Warrington.docx

Hi [REDACTED]

Although it would be useful to wait until we have had our discussion before finalising comments, at this stage I have a few initial comments to make. Firstly the plan within the submitted information lacks a key – it would be useful to clearly identify the extent of consultation area and the proposed indicative route (s) of the pipeline.

I would advise separate briefing sessions with affected ward Councillors and Parish Councils. They would also be best placed to advise on suitable locations for physical meetings however I would be interested to know whether you have a contingency for facilitating discussion should these not be allowed pending the outcome of future covid reviews.

As an LPA we would not publicise your consultation process because it is non-statutory (and therefore could be confusing to residents) and is operating outside of the control of the Council. It is useful to be able to signpost politicians and residents to your information and to input in to the consultation process though.

Although at this stage it does not appear as though you are requesting information on content of consultation, I would request that clarity is provided on route determination and process. Particular areas that I consider third parties maybe interested in is need, health and safety matters and visual amenity.

I have copied [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] in to this email should they have anything to add prior to meeting on 13th although note they are both out of the office now until new year.

Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Development Manager
Development Management
Growth Directorate
Warrington Borough Council
1 Time Square
East Annex | Town Hall | Warrington WA1 1UH
[REDACTED] | [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]@warrington.gov.uk
warrington.gov.uk | [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 20 December 2021 10:21
To: [REDACTED]@warrington.gov.uk>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Hynet North West

Morning [REDACTED]

Further to [REDACTED]'s email, we're also in the process of finalising our approach to our non-statutory consultation, which will begin at the end of January. We're inviting local authorities to provide any thoughts that would be useful in finalising these plans and I attach an overview of our approach in Warrington. Please feel free to share this with colleagues as appropriate but we would ask that you do not share it publicly.

The document includes questions on our proposals, which we'd welcome your thoughts on (as well as anything else you'd like us to consider). We'd welcome thoughts in whatever format is easiest – whether in the attached document, a separate file or by email. I'd also be more than happy to organise a further call to discuss any comments you have, if that's more convenient.

I believe we're due to meet to discuss the project in more detail on 13 January. However, if you're able to provide any comments about the attached by 7 January, that would be much appreciated.

Kind regards

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 16 December 2021 08:54
To: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@warrington.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@warrington.gov.uk)>
Cc: [REDACTED] >
Subject: RE: Hynet North West

Good Morning [REDACTED]

I was wondering whether you might be able to suggest some dates for us to meet with yourself and any colleagues to now let us introduce the project?

We have now met with the five other authorities through which the pipeline would run and all have agreed that in addition to any technical and ad hoc one to one meetings between cadent and themselves, that a monthly or bi-monthly 'Host Authority' meeting would be a good idea. I am therefore proposing to invite all six authorities to a virtual meeting on 19 January at which we can provide updates ahead of our EIA scoping submission and non-statutory consultation. I will include yourself in the invite, but just wanted to again offer the opportunity for us to meet in advance.

I look forward to hearing from you

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] **MRTPI IHBC**
Technical Director, Planning and Landscape
Direct: [REDACTED]
Mobile: [REDACTED]
www.woodplc.com



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 06 December 2021 10:33
To: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@warrington.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@warrington.gov.uk)>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Hynet North West

Morning [REDACTED]

I appreciate that we are still to meet to introduce the project to you, but one thing we are keen to do in advance is start discussions with regard to our non statutory consultation which is due to start at the end of January. My colleagues from Camargue, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] will be in touch this week with their thoughts on the approach we would propose to take.

Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] **MRTPI IHBC**
Technical Director, Planning and Landscape
Direct: + [REDACTED]
Mobile: + [REDACTED]
www.woodplc.com



From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@warrington.gov.uk>
Sent: 23 November 2021 16:45
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Hynet North West

CAUTION: External email. Please do not click on links/attachments unless you know the content is genuine and safe.

Thank you [REDACTED]

If you could let us have further detail once it is available it would be appreciated. On a related note, are you aware whether Warrington's draft local plan has been reviewed when looking at the siting of the pipeline?

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Development Manager
Development Management
Growth Directorate
Warrington Borough Council
1 Time Square
East Annex | Town Hall | Warrington WA1 1UH
[REDACTED] | [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]@warrington.gov.uk
warrington.gov.uk | [@warringtonbc](https://twitter.com/warringtonbc) | [facebook/warringtonbc](https://facebook.com/warringtonbc)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 17 November 2021 17:09
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@warrington.gov.uk>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Hynet North West

Afternoon [REDACTED]

Apologies for not coming back sooner with some background information on our project. I am just waiting on the finalisation of our scoping boundary so that I can provide you with a map of our initial thinking around the route a pipeline could take. In the meantime however, and as of today, we have 'softly' launched the project. We have emailed out information and a link to our website and as part of this have contacted the leader of each of our Host Authorities. Here is a link to the website, if you have any questions, or require any more information in advance of me sending over a plan and summary then please give me a call.

<https://www.hynethydrogenpipeline.co.uk/>

Thanks

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] **MRTPI IHBC**
Technical Director, Planning and Landscape
Direct: + [REDACTED]
Mobile: + [REDACTED]
www.woodplc.com



From: [REDACTED]@warrington.gov.uk>
Sent: 04 November 2021 08:23
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Hynet North West

CAUTION: External email. Please do not click on links/attachments unless you know the content is genuine and safe.

Hi [REDACTED]

Happy to arrange a meeting in the upcoming weeks however in the first instance it would be useful if you could provide:

- Indicative timeframes towards submission (I appreciate that at this stage this may be subject to change)
- Any high-level background information that you have for the scheme including a plan of its routing.

On this basis I can identify the right people for an initial inception meeting. If you send this through with your/ your teams availability for, say, the following 3 weeks after the date of providing this information then I will set something up. I am happy to meet in person however depending on numbers required it may be easier to co-ordinate over Teams – let's see, from the Council's perspective, who needs to attend in the first instance.

Thanks

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Development Manager
Development Management
Growth Directorate
Warrington Borough Council
1 Time Square
East Annex | Town Hall | Warrington WA1 1UH
[REDACTED] | [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]@warrington.gov.uk
warrington.gov.uk | [@warringtonbc](https://twitter.com/warringtonbc) | [facebook/warringtonbc](https://facebook.com/warringtonbc)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 04 November 2021 07:56
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Hynet North West

Morning [REDACTED]

I have discussed this with my colleague [REDACTED] who is Warrington's Development Manager (copied into this email).

Given your proposal will be working towards a DCO we think it would be more appropriate for Development Management to lead on this, although the Planning Policy Team will be linked in.

[REDACTED] will be getting in contact with your shortly.

The email addressed for my equivalents in Planning Policy at St Helens and Trafford are below. I am sure they will be able to assist or connect you to the team who will take a lead at their respective Councils.

[REDACTED]@sthelens.gov.uk
[REDACTED]@trafford.gov.uk

regards

Planning Policy and Programmes Manager

Planning Policy and Programmes
Growth Directorate
Warrington Borough Council
East annexe
Town Hall
Sankey Street
Warrington
WA1 1UH

Tel: [redacted]
Mobile: [redacted]
Email: [redacted]@warrington.gov.uk

From: [redacted]
Sent: 03 November 2021 10:42
To: [redacted]@warrington.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Hynet North West

Morning [redacted]

Appreciate you are not long back from leave so I presume you have a large in box. I dropped you the email below the other week, and was wondering whether you might be able to suggest a day and time that might be convenient for me to arrange to explain Cadent’s emerging project which will form part of the wider HyNet North West?

Thanks

[redacted]

[redacted] **MRTPI IHBC**
Technical Director, Planning and Landscape
Direct: + [redacted]
Mobile: + [redacted]
[redacted]



From: [redacted]
Sent: 25 October 2021 11:23
To: [redacted]@warrington.gov.uk
Subject: Hynet North West

[redacted]

[redacted] from Cheshire West and Chester provided me with your contact details, I appreciate that we haven’t spoken before. I work for a planning, environmental and engineering consultancy called Wood which has been appointed to support Cadent on its’ part of the wider Hynet North West project. Cadent is developing proposals for the hydrogen pipework network which would connect the hydrogen production facility at Stanlow to a proposed storage facility and to customers in the north west. Part of this network could run through Warrington and due to the overall length of the pipeline it would be classified as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project.

The purpose of this email is to see if you have some time over the next couple of weeks for a virtual or face to face meeting at which I can more fully introduce the project, the programme we are working to and some of the key members of the consenting

and environmental team who will be working on the application, eventually up to DCO submission. I would also like to agree with you the relevant Council contact(s) going forward, frequency of communication etc. If you could suggest a date and time then that would be appreciated.

In the meantime, and as the pipeline could extend into a number of local authority areas including St Helens and Trafford I was wondering whether you would be able to suggest any equivalent planning contacts in those authorities?

I look forward to hearing from you,

Regards

[Redacted]

[Redacted] MRTPI IHBC
Technical Director, Planning and Landscape
Direct: + [Redacted]
Mobile: + [Redacted]
[Redacted]



This message is the property of John Wood Group PLC and/or its subsidiaries and/or affiliates and is intended only for the named recipient(s). Its contents (including any attachments) may be confidential, legally privileged or otherwise protected from disclosure by law. Unauthorized use, copying, distribution or disclosure of any of it may be unlawful and is strictly prohibited. We assume no responsibility to persons other than the intended named recipient(s) and do not accept liability for any errors or omissions which are a result of email transmission. If you have received this message in error, please notify us immediately by reply email to the sender and confirm that the original message and any attachments and copies have been destroyed and deleted from your system.

If you do not wish to receive future unsolicited commercial electronic messages from us, please forward this email to: [Redacted] communications and similar factual, non-commercial electronic communications.

Please click [Redacted] for notices and company information in relation to emails originating in the UK, Italy or France.

As a recipient of an email from a John Wood Group Plc company, your contact information will be on our systems and we may hold other personal data about you such as identification information, CVs, financial information and information contained in correspondence. For more information on our privacy practices and your data protection rights, please see our privacy notice at [Redacted]

DISCLAIMER

The views expressed by the author of this e-mail do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of Warrington Borough Council. Warrington Borough Council employees and Elected Members are expressly requested, to not make any defamatory, threatening or obscene statements and to not infringe any legal right (including copyright) by e-mail communication.

WARNING: e-Mail transmission cannot be guaranteed to be secure or error-free as information could be intercepted, corrupted, lost, destroyed, arrive late or incomplete, or may contain viruses. Warrington Borough Council therefore does

not accept liability for any errors or omissions in the content of this message, which arise as a result of e-mail transmission.

CONFIDENTIALITY: This e-mail contains proprietary information, some or all of which may be confidential and/or legally privileged. It is for the intended recipient(s) only. If an addressing or transmission error has misdirected this e-mail, please notify the sender; and then delete the original. If you are not the intended recipient you should not use, disclose, distribute, copy, print or rely on any information contained in this e-mail.

ACCESS TO INFORMATION: As a public sector organisation, Warrington Borough Council may be required to disclose this e-mail (or any response to it) under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. All information is handled in line with the Data Protection Act 2018.

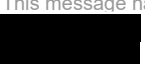
MONITORING: Warrington Borough Council undertakes monitoring of both incoming and outgoing e-mail. You should therefore be aware that the content of any e-mail may be examined if deemed appropriate.

VIRUSES: The recipient should check this e-mail and any attachments for the presence of viruses. Warrington Borough Council accepts no liability for any damage caused by any virus transmitted by this e-mail. Although precautions have been taken to ensure that no viruses are present within this e-mail, Warrington Borough Council cannot accept responsibility for any loss or damage arising from the use of this e-mail or any attachments.

--
This message has been checked by Libraesva ESG and is found to be clean.



--
This message has been checked by Libraesva ESG and is found to be clean.



Cadent's HyNet North West Hydrogen Pipeline Overview of non-statutory consultation approach in Cheshire West and Chester

Project overview

The [HyNet North West Hydrogen Pipeline](#) will help unlock an energy revolution that will decarbonise the North West. Our project will put in place the infrastructure to deliver clean hydrogen power to industry, and blended hydrogen power to homes across the region. It is an essential part of [HyNet North West](#) – an innovative project that will produce, store and distribute hydrogen as well as capture and store carbon from industry across the region.

We are developing a network of underground pipelines that will take hydrogen produced at Essar's Stanlow Manufacturing Complex to a number of industrial users and blending stations across the North West. We'll also be connecting into an existing gas storage facility near Northwich. Our pipelines will be underground, although we will need some above ground installations.

Consulting on the proposals

How we communicate our proposals and gather feedback is important to us. Our consultation approach has been developed so as to maximise understanding and awareness of our proposals in your area and encourage engagement from local people and other groups.

Feedback from residents of Cheshire West and Chester, their representatives and other stakeholders will be important in helping us refine the project design and understand more about the local area.

We intend to carry out two stages of public consultation as part of the pre-application stage of our Development Consent Order application. The first of these will be a non-statutory consultation on the route corridors we have identified for a potential pipeline route, which will take place in Q1 2022. This consultation will run for six weeks.

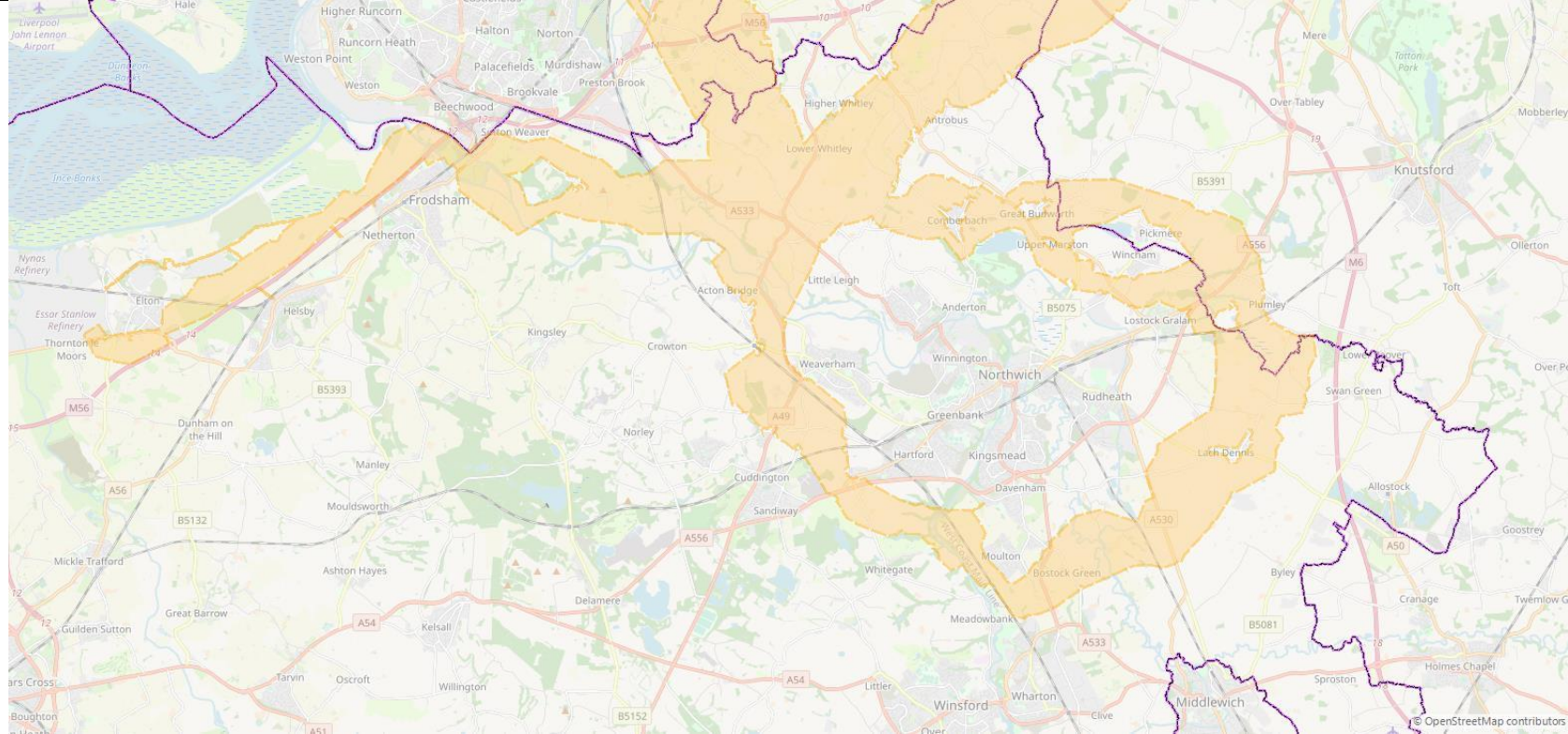
We will hold a further, statutory consultation on a preferred route for the pipeline (and our Preliminary Environmental Information) later in 2022. We'll also consult with the council on our Statement of Community Consultation.

What we would like from you

This document sets out an overview of our consultation approach, along with the specific activities we intend to carry out in Cheshire West and Chester. We're still in the process of finalising this approach and welcome your thoughts on how we intend to consult. Below we have identified some specific areas and questions we'd welcome your input on. However, if there is anything else you think we should consider, we'd be happy to do this.

Please provide comments in whatever format is most convenient, via info@hynethydrogenpipeline.co.uk. We'd also be happy to organise a meeting to discuss further.

Indicative consultation zone within Cheshire West and Chester



THIS MAP IS INDICATIVE ONLY

Publicising the consultation

- At the launch of consultation, we will write to residents of Cheshire West and Chester that are within our consultation zone (as above) directly to tell them how they can find out more about our proposals and provide feedback.
- Outside of this direct consultation zone, we will publicise the consultation periods and events via print and online – through paid-for adverts and press releases. This advertising will be targeted at the entire region, including residents within Cheshire West and Chester. Publications we are considering engaging with in your area:
 - Mid Cheshire Guardian series (print)
 - Liverpool Echo / Manchester Evening News (digital)

Are there any other publications we should consider? **Northwich Guardian**

Does the council have any publications (internal or external) that we may be able to provide content for? **Not at this time**

- We will also carry out promotion of the consultation via social media and online advertising.
- **Would the council be willing to share content about the consultation via its existing channels? If so, please could you advise the best person to contact about this.**
- **The Council does not routinely promote consultation via existing channels (unless a live application on the planning portal). Our locality team can push out pre prepared communications through our existing networks and promote consultation events to interested groups.**

Making information available

- The project website will be the central hub for information
- We intend to provide reference copies of our materials in public locations within the project area. We will also put up posters publicising the consultation at these venues. Within Cheshire West and Chester, we are considering:
 - Hartford Village Hall, 244 Chester Road, Hartford, Northwich CW8 1LW
 - Whitley Village Hall, Village Lane, Higher Whitley, Warrington WA4 4EJ
 - Frodsham Community Centre, Fluin Ln, Frodsham WA6 7QN
 - Northwich Library, Witton St, Northwich CW9 5DR
 - Frodsham Library, Princeway, Frodsham WA6 6RX
 - Chester Library, Hunter Street, Chester CH1 2AR
 - **Wyvern House, The Drummer, Winsford, CW7 1AU (as it's a main Council Building)**

Are there any other venues we should consider that would be suitable for either reference materials or posters publicising the consultation?

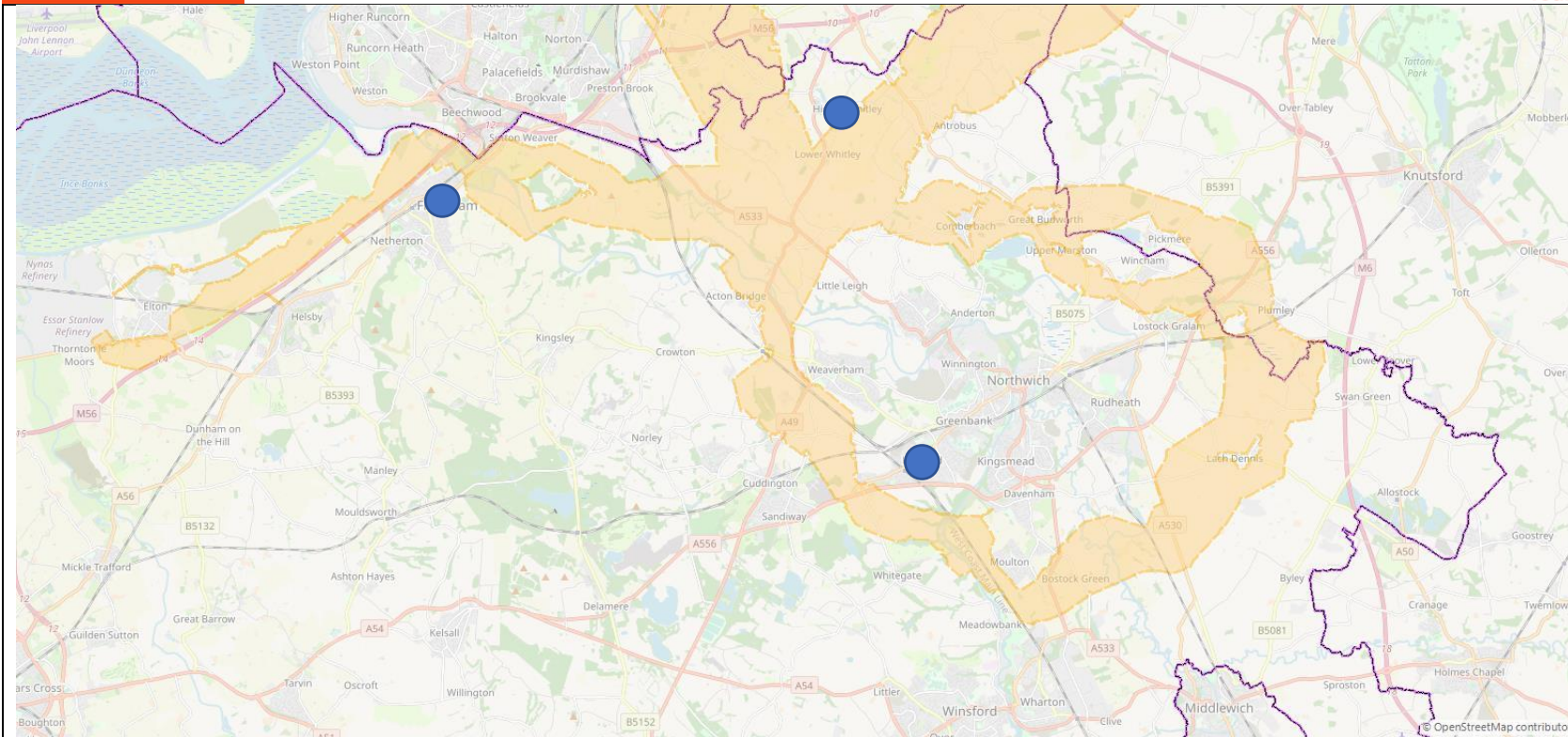
- Across the project area, we will hold eight in-person consultation events and two online webinars in total. These events will be an opportunity for people to 'drop in' and ask any questions they may have about the project. They will be staffed by members of the project team from a range of disciplines. Each event will be three hours and will be arranged on different days and times to give people as much opportunity as possible to attend.

In Cheshire West and Chester, we intend to hold three events (listed and pictured below):

- Hartford Village Hall, 244 Chester Road, Hartford, Northwich CW8 1LW
- Whitley Village Hall, Village Lane, Higher Whitley, Warrington WA4 4EJ
- Frodsham Community Centre, Fluin Ln, Frodsham WA6 7QN

Do you have any comments on the venues we are proposing or our approach to consultation events?

Northwich Memorial Court is probably a larger and more suitable venue, with better access and parking to capture the wider Northwich Area, but it depends where the indicative line will lie.



Additional stakeholder groups

We're currently in the process of identifying all of the stakeholders – local, regional and national – that we'll engage with during our consultations. Part of this will include identifying local interest groups and those that may not normally take part in consultations or require support to engage fully. This work is ongoing but please let us know if:

- **There are any specific local interest groups we should engage with?**
- [Redacted], **Northwich BID Project Manager**
Groundwork Cheshire, Lancashire & Merseyside
T: [Redacted] M: [Redacted] E: [Redacted] [@groundwork.org.uk](mailto:[Redacted]@groundwork.org.uk)
A: Waterside House, Navigation Road, Northwich, Cheshire, CW8 1BE

- **Town Clerk, Northwich Town Council**
The Council Offices, 78 Church Road
Northwich, Cheshire, CW9 5PB
Tel: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]@northwichtowncouncil.gov.uk
- **Town and Parish Councils** - Can be emailed out by Locality Team. (From the map main parish/Town Councils include – Acton Bridge PC, Weaverham PC, Little Leigh PC, Cuddington PC, Crowton PC, Northwich Town Council, Whitley PC, Antrobus PC, Comberbach PC

Cheshire West and Chester Councillors - All Northwich Cllrs should be consulted / made aware of what is going on – this can be done through the Locality Team. 6 weekly Members Briefings scheduled at 6.00pm on Wednesdays. Updates can be provided to all Members re: engagement activity as appropriate.

NORTHWICH	COUNCILLOR
Davenham, Moulton & Kingsmead	[REDACTED]
Hartford & Greenbank	[REDACTED]
Leftwich	[REDACTED]
Marbury	[REDACTED]
Rudheath	[REDACTED]
Shakerley	[REDACTED]
Weaver & Cuddington	[REDACTED]
Winnington & Castle	[REDACTED]
Witton	[REDACTED]

- **Northwich Rotary** - northwichrotaryclub@gmail.com
- **Hartford golf club**, Burrows Hill, Northwich, Cheshire, CW8 3AP 01606 871162 info@hartfordgolf.co.uk
- **Winnington Park Rec Club**,
Park Road, Winnington, Northwich, Cheshire, CW8 4EB. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] [REDACTED]
winningtonparkrecreationclub@yahoo.co.uk
- **Winnington Garden Centre**,
Winnington Avenue Winnington, Northwich CW8 4EE 01606 79965
weavervale@klondyke.co.uk
- **Victoria Infirmary**, Northwich, Winnington Hill, Northwich, CW8 1AW 01606 564000
- **GP surgeries**,
- **Winnington Firdale Medical Centre**, Firdale Road, Northwich, Cheshire, CW8 4AZ
01606 544300
cheshireccg.firdale@nhs.net
- **Barnton**
Oakwood Medical Centre, Broadway, Barnton, Northwich, Cheshire, CW8 4LF
01606 544241
vrccg.oakwoodmanagers@nhs.net
- **Winnington Park Primary and Nursery School**
Firdale Road, Northwich, CW8 4AZ 01606 74371
admin@winningtonpark.cheshire.sch.uk
- **Barnton Library**, Townfield Lane, Barnton, Northwich, CW8 4LJ [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] @cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk
- **Weaverham Library**, Russet Road, Weaverham, CW8 3HY
- **Telephone: 01606 274344**

- **Sandiway Library Mere Lane, Cuddington, Northwich, CW8 2NS 01606 271767**
- **Barnton Memorial Hall 30a Townfield Lane, Barnton, Northwich, CW8 4LH 01606 75153**
barnton.memorialhall@googlemail.com
- **FOAM (Friend of Anderton and Marbury) - [REDACTED] [REDACTED]**

- **There are any specific seldom heard groups / hard to reach groups?**
- **The council has a community engagement officer (or other officer) that we can work with as the project develops?**
- **Locality Team Northwich and Winsford**
[REDACTED] Locality Officer, [REDACTED] [@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk)
[REDACTED] [@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk)
[REDACTED] Senior Locality Manager, [REDACTED] [@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk)

The planning process, next steps and how we'll work together

We're currently at an early stage in the project. We're carrying out detailed technical assessments to understand more about the areas we're working in. This information is helping us to develop potential route corridors for the pipeline. We will publish more information in January.

HyNet North West Hydrogen Pipeline is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP). This means we will have to apply to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy for a Development Consent Order (DCO).

As part of the DCO process, we will be carrying out consultation with stakeholders and local communities. We currently expect to carry out two stages of consultation (as outlined above). The first of which will begin 26 January, run for six weeks, and end 18 March. These consultations will give local authorities and residents ample opportunity to understand more about our proposals, provide feedback and influence our proposals.

Staying in touch

As we develop our proposals it's important to us that we maintain regular communication with you. We will always keep you updated and fully informed about what we're doing. Should you have any questions, require further information, or have questions or feedback on any of the above, please get in touch with us via the below channels:

- Email: info@hynethydrogenpipeline.co.uk
- Phone: 0800 860 6261
- You can also register for updates via our website: hynethydrogenpipeline.co.uk/keep-in-touch/

Appendix C Stage Two Consultation Section 55 Checklist

Section 42: Duty to consult		
Did the Applicant consult the applicable persons set out in s42 of the PA2008 about the proposed application?		
6	Section 42(1)(a) persons prescribed ¹¹ ?	Yes. The prescribed consultees under Section 42(1)(a) of the PA 2008 were consulted. A full list of the bodies consulted under Section 42(1)(a) can be found at Appendix D of the Stage 2 Consultation Summary Report (available at: https://www.hynethydrogenpipeline.co.uk/knowledge-hub/).
7	Section 42(1)(aa) the Marine Management Organisation ¹² ?	Yes. The Marine Management Organisation was consulted, see Section 1.5 of the Stage 2 Statement of Community Involvement and Section 2.2, Paragraph 17.7.3 and Appendix D of the Stage 2 Consultation Summary (both available at: https://www.hynethydrogenpipeline.co.uk/knowledge-hub/).
8	Section 42(1)(b) each local authority within s43 ¹³ ?	Yes. The prescribed consultees under Section 42(1)(b) of the PA 2008 were consulted, see Paragraph 3.2.14 and Table 3.1 .
9	Section 42(1)(c) the Greater London Authority (if in Greater London area)?	The Greater London Authority was not consulted as the DCO Proposed Development site does not involve land within Greater London.
10	Section 42(1)(d) each person in one or more of s44 categories ¹⁴ ?	Yes. The prescribed consultees under Section 42(1)(d) of the PA 2008 were consulted, see Paragraphs 3.2.15-3.2.17 for more detail.
Section 45: Timetable for s42 consultation		

¹¹ Statutory consultees set out in Schedule 1 of The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 (APFP Regulations)

¹² In any case where the Proposed Development would affect, or would be likely to affect, any of the areas specified in s42(2) of the PA2008

¹³ Definition of 'local authority' in s43(3) of the PA2008: The 'B' authority where the application land is in the authority's area; the 'A' authority where any part of the boundary of A's area is also a part of the boundary of B's area; the 'C' authority (upper tier) where the application land is in that authority's area; the 'D' authority (upper tier) where such an authority shares a boundary with a 'C' authority

¹⁴ Category 1: owner, lessee, tenant or occupier of land; Category 2: person interested in the land or has power to sell and convey the land or to release the land; Category 3: persons who would or might be entitled to make a relevant claim. There is no requirement on the Planning Inspectorate to check the accuracy of the list(s) provided or whether the Applicant has made diligent inquiry

11	Did the Applicant notify s42 consultees of the deadline for receipt of consultation responses; and if so was the deadline notified by the Applicant 28 days or more starting with the day after receipt of the consultation documents?	<p>Yes – each of the letters, brochures and online material clearly stated the deadline for the receipt of the responses.</p> <p>The consultation was due to take place over a 42-day period from 00:01 on Monday 12 September 2022 to 23:59 on Monday 24 October 2022. Due to the death of Her Majesty the Queen, the decision was taken by Cadent to delay the consultation events and extend the statutory consultation until 10 November 2022. This decision was made on the basis that Her Majesty the Queen was a patron of the Institution of Gas Engineers & Managers and to allow staff, stakeholders, and potential consultees to pay their respects.</p> <p>A meeting was held with the six host local authorities to discuss and agree the changes, held on 16 September 2022.</p> <p>The Stage 2 Consultation subsequently took place from Thursday 29 September 2022 to Thursday 10 November 2022. This exceeds the statutory minimum period of 28 days for statutory consultation specified by the PA 2008 whilst respectfully accounting for the mourning period.</p>
Section 46: Duty to notify the Planning Inspectorate of proposed application		
12	Did the Applicant supply information to notify the Planning Inspectorate of the proposed application; and if so, was the information supplied to the Planning Inspectorate on or before the date it was sent to the s42 consultees? Was this done on or before commencing consultation under s42?	<p>The Applicant supplied information to notify the Planning Inspectorate of the proposed application in a letter dated 28 September 2022; this was therefore completed prior to consultation materials being issued to consultees on 29 September 2022. This letter was sent pursuant to Section 46 of the PA 2008. Further details are provided at Paragraph 4.6.43 of the Stage 2 Consultation Summary Report (available at: https://www.hynethydrogenpipeline.co.uk/knowledge-hub/) and the letter is available on the PINS website, at https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN060006/documents.</p> <p>The letter contained:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A summary of the proposed development for which the DCO will be sought. - An example copy of the email to be issued to prescribed bodies under Section 42. - Section 48 Notice which has also been published in local and national newspapers to publicise the proposed application. - The public consultation brochure which provides an overview of the DCO Proposed Development. - The Preliminary Environmental Information Report ('PEIR') which details the DCO Proposed Development and a preliminary assessment of its likely significant environmental effects.

		<p>- The Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) which states how the Applicant is consulting the local community in the vicinity of the DCO Proposed Development.</p> <p>- The Design Evolution Report, which described the different options and alternatives.</p>
Section 47: Duty to consult local community		
13	Did the Applicant prepare a Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) on how it intended to consult people living in the vicinity of the land?	<p>Yes.</p> <p>A SoCC was prepared, dated September 2022, available on the project website (https://www.hynethydrogenpipeline.co.uk/knowledge-hub/). A notice advertising where and when the SoCC could be inspected was published in newspapers circulating in the vicinity of the Project.</p> <p>In compliance with Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008, it explained how Cadent would consult the local community on the Project. It set out when and where the consultation would be held, the information that would be available during that consultation, who would be consulted, and how the community would be consulted.</p>
14	Were 'B' and (where relevant) 'C' authorities consulted about the content of the SoCC; and if so, was the deadline for receipt of responses 28 days beginning with the day after the day that 'B' and (where applicable) 'C' authorities received the consultation documents?	<p>Yes.</p> <p>All local authorities within which the Project is located ('B') were consulted between 21 June 2022 and 22 July 2022, a period of 32 days. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Cheshire East Council; ● Cheshire West and Chester Council; ● Halton Borough Council; ● St Helens Borough Council; ● Trafford Metropolitan Borough Council; and ● Warrington Borough Council. <p>The Project is not located within any upper-tier county councils ('C').</p>
15	Has the Applicant had regard to any responses received when preparing the SoCC?	<p>Yes.</p> <p>Comments were received from all of the 'B' authorities, and a summary of the feedback and how that fed into the consultation approach is set out in Section 2.3.4 of this Report.</p>

16	Has the SoCC been made available for inspection in a way that is reasonably convenient for people living in the vicinity of the land; and has a notice been published in a newspaper circulating in the vicinity of the land which states where and when the SoCC can be inspected?	Yes. The SoCC was made available online on the project website, in line with changes to certain publicity requirements introduced by the <i>Infrastructure Planning (Publication and Notification of Applications etc.) (Amendment) Regulations 2020</i> at the start of the statutory consultation period. This is still available online. Hard copies were available upon request, and were provided for reference at in-person consultation events. See 4.6.9 of the Stage 2 Consultation Summary Report (available at: https://www.hynethydrogenpipeline.co.uk/knowledge-hub/). Notices were published in the Manchester Evening News, the Guardian and the London Gazette which stated where and when the SoCC could be inspected.
17	Does the SoCC set out whether the development is EIA development ¹⁵ ; and does it set out how the Applicant intends to publicise and consult on the Preliminary Environmental Information?	Yes. The SoCC confirmed in Section 3.2 that the proposed development is EIA development, which also confirmed that the Preliminary Environmental Information Report would be publicised (including being available on the project website) and consulted in line with the consultation methods set out in the SoCC Section 4.
18	Has the Applicant carried out the consultation in accordance with the SoCC?	Yes. The consultation was run in line with the final SoCC that had been agreed with comments from the host authorities as set out above under Questions 14 and 15. A compliance table has been completed, available at Appendix F .
Section 48: Duty to publicise the proposed application		
	Did the Applicant publicise the proposed application in the prescribed manner set out in Regulation 4(2) of the APFP Regulations?	<p>The Applicant publicised the proposed Application in a Section 48 Notice in accordance with Regulation 4(2) of the APFP Regulations in the following newspapers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Manchester Evening News - The Guardian - The London Gazette <p>The notices were re-published on 22 and 29 September 2022 following the postponement of the Consultation due to the period of National Mourning following the death of Her Majesty the Queen.</p> <p>Further detail can be found in Paragraphs 4.6.49-4.6.54 and Table 4.6 of the Stage 2 Consultation Summary Report (available at: https://www.hynethydrogenpipeline.co.uk/knowledge-hub/).</p>
		Date

¹⁵ Regulation 12 of the 2017 EIA Regulations, or where Regulation 37 of the 2017 EIA Regulations applies, Regulation 10 of the 2009 EIA Regulations

a)	for at least two successive weeks in one or more local newspapers circulating in the vicinity in which the Proposed Development would be situated;	Manchester Evening News	05.09.2022 (combined Sections 47 and 48 notice) 12.09.2022 (Section 48 notice) 19.09.2022 (Section 48 notice) 22.09.2022 (combined Sections 47 and 48 notice)
b)	once in a national newspaper;	The Guardian	05.09.2022 (combined Sections 47 and 48 notice) 22.09.2022 (combined Sections 47 and 48 notice)
c)	once in the London Gazette and, if land in Scotland is affected, the Edinburgh Gazette; and	The London Gazette	05.09.2022 (combined Sections 47 and 48 notice) 05.09.2022 (Section 48 notice) 22.09.2022 (combined Sections 47 and 48 notice) 29.09.2022 (Section 48 notice).
d)	where the proposed application relates to offshore development – (i) once in Lloyds List; and (ii) once in an appropriate fishing trade journal?	The proposed application does not relate to offshore development, and so it was not publicised in Lloyds List or any fishing trade journal.	n/a
20	Did the s48 notice include the required information set out in Regulation 4(3) of APFP Regulations?	<p>Yes. The Section 48 notices, which are available on the project website (https://www.hynethydrogenpipeline.co.uk/knowledge-hub/), included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The name and address of the Applicant; - A statement that the Applicant intends to make an application for a DCO; - A statement that the DCO Proposed Development is EIA development or that an EIA is being undertaken; - A summary of the DCO Proposed Development, including its location and route; - A statement that the consultation documents (including plans and maps showing the location of the DCO Proposed Development) were available to inspect free of charge at a location within the vicinity of the DCO Proposed Development, including the times that the documents could be inspected at these venues; - The latest date on which the consultation documents could be inspected, which was on or after the last date for consultation responses; 	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Confirmation that requests for hard copies, electronic copies and USB copies of the consultation documents would be free of charge, and details of the price for technical documents; - Details were provided of how to respond to the publicity. This included the DCO Proposed Development website, email and freepost addresses and a telephone number; - Each notice stated a deadline for the receipt of responses, being in excess of 28 days and running from the date when the Section 48 Notice was last published. <p>More detail can be found at Paragraphs 4.6.59-4.6.61 of the Stage 2 Consultation Summary Report (available at: https://www.hynethydrogenpipeline.co.uk/knowledge-hub/).</p>
--	--	--

Information		Paragraph	Information		Paragraph
a)	the name and address of the Applicant.	Yes. Paragraph 1 states: “Notice is hereby given that Cadent (the “Applicant”) of Pilot Way, Ansty CV7 9JU...”	b)	a statement that the Applicant intends to make an application for development consent to the Secretary of State	Yes. Paragraph 1 states: “...intends to make an application to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) under Section 37 of the Planning Act 2008 for development consent”
c)	a statement as to whether the application is EIA development	Yes. Paragraph 7 states: “The Project is an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) development as defined in the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017. Consequently, the Applicant will submit an Environmental Statement as part of the Application.”	d)	a summary of the main proposals, specifying the location or route of the Proposed Development	Yes. Paragraphs 2-6 provide a summary of the project, including the location and approximate route of the pipeline.
e)	a statement that the documents, plans and maps showing the nature and location of the Proposed Development are available for inspection free of charge on a website maintained	Yes. Paragraph 17 states: “Copies of all the project documents and further details about the Project will be available	f)	the latest date on which those documents, plans and maps will be available for inspection on the website	Yes. Paragraph 20 states: “The documents will be available until 23:59 on 10 November 2022.”

g)	by or on behalf of the Applicant, including the address of the website; the place on the website where the documents, plans and maps may be inspected; and a telephone number which can be used to contact the Applicant for enquiries in relation to the documents, plans and maps	to download free of charge on the Applicant's website at the start of the statutory consultation on 12 September 2022: www.hynethydrogenpipeline.co.uk/our-current-proposals/knowledge-hub/ A telephone number is provided in paragraphs 13 and 19.	h)		
	whether a charge will be made for copies of any of the documents, plans or maps and the amount of any charge	Yes. Paragraph 19 states: "A reasonable copying charge will apply for paper copies only (up to a maximum of £150 for the full suite of documents). An electronic copy will be free of charge."		details of how to respond to the publicity	Yes. Paragraph 22 sets out how to respond via the feedback form, interactive map, email or in writing.
	i) a deadline for receipt of those responses by the Applicant, being not less than 28 days following the date when the notice is last published	Yes. Paragraph 21 states: "Responses must be received by 23:59 on 10 November 2022." This date is in excess of the 28 day minimum.			
21	Are there any observations in respect of the s48 notice provided above?				
	n/a				
22	Has a copy of the s48 notice been sent to the EIA consultation bodies and to any person notified to the Applicant in accordance with the EIA Regulations ¹⁶ ?	Y			
s49: Duty to take account of responses to consultation and publicity					

¹⁶ Regulation 13 of the 2017 EIA Regulations, or where Regulation 37 of the 2017 EIA Regulations applies, Regulation 11 of the 2009 EIA Regulations

23	Has the Applicant had regard to any relevant responses to the s42, s47 and s48 consultation?	Yes. All responses received to the consultation have been considered by the Applicant. A full list of responses received during the Stage 2 Consultation can be found in Chapters 6 – 23 of the Stage 2 Consultation Summary Report (available at: https://www.hynethydrogenpipeline.co.uk/knowledge-hub/).
Guidance about pre-application procedure		
24	To what extent has the Applicant had regard to statutory guidance 'Planning Act 2008: Guidance on the pre-application process' ¹⁷ ?	Section 2.5 of the Stage 2 Consultation Summary Report (available at: https://www.hynethydrogenpipeline.co.uk/knowledge-hub/) and throughout the Report sets out how this has been complied with.

¹⁷ The Planning Inspectorate must have regard to the extent to which the Applicant has had regard to guidance issued under s50

Appendix D Stage Three Consultation Section 55 Checklist

Section 42: Duty to consult		
Did the Applicant consult the applicable persons set out in s42 of the PA2008 about the proposed application?		
6	Section 42(1)(a) persons prescribed ¹⁸ ?	Yes. The prescribed consultees under Section 42(1)(a) of the PA 2008 were consulted. A full list of the bodies consulted under Section 42(1)(a) can be found at Consultation Report at submission of the Application. A late Section 42 letter was issued to Severn Trent Water on 6 November 2024 via post and email, and this consultee was granted an extension to the consultation deadline to 6 December 2024.
7	Section 42(1)(aa) the Marine Management Organisation ¹⁹ ?	No. The Marine Management Organisation was not consulted during the Stage 3 Consultation as their response during the Stage 2 Consultation confirmed that the Project does not interact with the UK marine licensing area. More detail can be found at Section 2.2, Paragraph 17.7.3 and Appendix D of the Stage 2 Consultation Summary (both available at: https://www.hynethydrogenpipeline.co.uk/knowledge-hub/).
8	Section 42(1)(b) each local authority within s43 ²⁰ ?	Yes. The prescribed consultees under Section 42(1)(b) of the PA 2008 were consulted, see Paragraph 3.3.12 and Table 3.2 .
9	Section 42(1)(c) the Greater London Authority (if in Greater London area)?	The Greater London Authority was not consulted as the DCO Proposed Development site does not involve land within Greater London.
10	Section 42(1)(d) each person in one or more of s44 categories ²¹ ?	Yes. The prescribed consultees under Section 42(1)(d) of the PA 2008 were consulted, see Paragraphs 3.3.13-3.3.15 for more detail. In addition:

¹⁸ Statutory consultees set out in Schedule 1 of The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 (APFP Regulations)

¹⁹ In any case where the Proposed Development would affect, or would be likely to affect, any of the areas specified in s42(2) of the PA2008

²⁰ Definition of 'local authority' in s43(3) of the PA2008: The 'B' authority where the application land is in the authority's area; the 'A' authority where any part of the boundary of A's area is also a part of the boundary of B's area; the 'C' authority (upper tier) where the application land is in that authority's area; the 'D' authority (upper tier) where such an authority shares a boundary with a 'C' authority

²¹ Category 1: owner, lessee, tenant or occupier of land; Category 2: person interested in the land or has power to sell and convey the land or to release the land; Category 3: persons who would or might be entitled to make a relevant claim. There is no requirement on the Planning Inspectorate to check the accuracy of the list(s) provided or whether the Applicant has made diligent inquiry

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2 emails were issued to additional Persons with an Interest in Land on 11 December 2024, with an extension date to 6 January 2025. - 27 letters were issued to additional Persons with an Interest in Land on 22 November, with an extension date to 20 December. - 4 letters were issued to additional Persons with an Interest in Land on 18 November, with an extension date to 16 December. - 4 letters were issued to additional Persons with an Interest in Land on 30 October, with an extension date to 4 December.
Section 45: Timetable for s42 consultation		
11	Did the Applicant notify s42 consultees of the deadline for receipt of consultation responses; and if so was the deadline notified by the Applicant 28 days or more starting with the day after receipt of the consultation documents?	<p>Yes – each of the letters, brochures and online material clearly stated the deadline for the receipt of the responses.</p> <p>The Stage 3 Consultation took place from 14 October 2024 to 19 November 2024. This exceeds the statutory minimum period of 28 days for statutory consultation specified by the PA 2008.</p>
Section 46: Duty to notify the Planning Inspectorate of proposed application		
12	Did the Applicant supply information to notify the Planning Inspectorate of the proposed application; and if so, was the information supplied to the Planning Inspectorate on or before the date it was sent to the s42 consultees? Was this done on or before commencing consultation under s42?	<p>The Applicant supplied information to notify the Planning Inspectorate of the proposed application in a letter dated 10 October 2024; this was therefore completed prior to consultation materials being issued to consultees on 14 October 2024. This letter was sent pursuant to Section 46 of the PA 2008. Further details are provided available on the PINS website, at https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN060006/documents.</p> <p>Attached to the Section 46 notification were copies of letters sent to prescribed bodies, local authorities and other stakeholders. In addition, the notification listed the consultation documents, which were made available for download from the Project website.</p>
Section 47: Duty to consult local community		
13	Did the Applicant prepare a Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) on how it intended to consult people living in the vicinity of the land?	<p>Yes.</p> <p>A SoCC was prepared, dated October 2024, available on the project website (https://www.hynethydrogenpipeline.co.uk/knowledge-hub/). A notice advertising where and when the SoCC could be inspected was published in newspapers circulating in the vicinity of the Project.</p> <p>In compliance with Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008, it explained how Cadent would consult the local community on the Project. It set out when and where the consultation would be held,</p>

		the information that would be available during that consultation, who would be consulted, and how the community would be consulted.
14	Were 'B' and (where relevant) 'C' authorities consulted about the content of the SoCC; and if so, was the deadline for receipt of responses 28 days beginning with the day after the day that 'B' and (where applicable) 'C' authorities received the consultation documents?	<p>Yes.</p> <p>All local authorities within which the Project is located ('B') were consulted between 09 July 2024 and 06 August 2024, a period of 28 days. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cheshire East Council; • Cheshire West and Chester Council; • Halton Borough Council; • St Helens Borough Council; • Trafford Metropolitan Borough Council; and • Warrington Borough Council. <p>The Project is not located within any upper-tier county councils ('C').</p>
15	Has the Applicant had regard to any responses received when preparing the SoCC?	<p>Yes.</p> <p>Comments were received from all of the 'B' authorities, and a summary of the feedback and how that fed into the consultation approach is set out in Section 2.4.4 of this Report.</p>
16	Has the SoCC been made available for inspection in a way that is reasonably convenient for people living in the vicinity of the land; and has a notice been published in a newspaper circulating in the vicinity of the land which states where and when the SoCC can be inspected?	<p>Yes. The SoCC was made available online on the project website, in line with changes to certain publicity requirements introduced by the <i>Infrastructure Planning (Publication and Notification of Applications etc.) (Amendment) Regulations 2020</i> at the start of the statutory consultation period. This is still available online. Hard copies were available upon request and were provided for reference at in-person consultation events. See 4.6.9 of the Stage 2 Consultation Summary Report (available at: https://www.hynethydrogenpipeline.co.uk/knowledge-hub/). Notices were published in the Manchester Evening News, the Guardian and the London Gazette which stated where and when the SoCC could be inspected.</p>
17	Does the SoCC set out whether the development is EIA development ²² ; and does it set out how the Applicant	<p>Yes. The SoCC confirmed in Section 3.2 that the proposed development is EIA development, which also confirmed that the Preliminary Environmental Information Report would be publicised</p>

²² Regulation 12 of the 2017 EIA Regulations, or where Regulation 37 of the 2017 EIA Regulations applies, Regulation 10 of the 2009 EIA Regulations

	intends to publicise and consult on the Preliminary Environmental Information?	(including being available on the project website) and consulted in line with the consultation methods set out in the SoCC Section 4.	
18	Has the Applicant carried out the consultation in accordance with the SoCC?	Yes. The consultation was run in line with the final SoCC that had been agreed with comments from the host authorities as set out above under Questions 14 and 15. A compliance table has been completed, available at Appendix G .	
Section 48: Duty to publicise the proposed application			
	Did the Applicant publicise the proposed application in the prescribed manner set out in Regulation 4(2) of the APFP Regulations?	<p>The Applicant publicised the proposed Application in a Section 48 Notice in accordance with Regulation 4(2) of the APFP Regulations in the following newspapers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Manchester Evening News - The Guardian - The London Gazette <p>The notices were published on 14 and 24 October 2024.</p>	
Newspaper(s) Date			
a)	for at least two successive weeks in one or more local newspapers circulating in the vicinity in which the Proposed Development would be situated;	Manchester Evening News	14.10.2024 (Combined section 47 and 48 notice) 24.10.2024 (Combined section 47 and 48 notice)
b)	once in a national newspaper;	The Guardian	14.10.2024 (Combined section 47 and 48 notice)
c)	once in the London Gazette and, if land in Scotland is affected, the Edinburgh Gazette; and	The London Gazette	14.10.2024 (Combined section 47 and 48 notice)
d)	where the proposed application relates to offshore development – (i) once in Lloyds List; and (ii) once in an appropriate fishing trade journal?	The proposed application does not relate to offshore development, and so it was not publicised in Lloyds List or any fishing trade journal.	n/a

20	Did the s48 notice include the required information set out in Regulation 4(3) of APFP Regulations?	<p>Yes. The Section 48 notices, which are available on the project website (https://www.hynethydrogenpipeline.co.uk/knowledge-hub/), included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The name and address of the Applicant; - A statement that the Applicant intends to make an application for a DCO; - A statement that the DCO Proposed Development is EIA development or that an EIA is being undertaken; - A summary of the DCO Proposed Development, including its location and route; - A statement that the consultation documents (including plans and maps showing the location of the DCO Proposed Development) were available to inspect free of charge at a location within the vicinity of the DCO Proposed Development, including the times that the documents could be inspected at these venues; - The latest date on which the consultation documents could be inspected, which was on or after the last date for consultation responses; - Confirmation that requests for hard copies, electronic copies and USB copies of the consultation documents would be free of charge, and details of the price for technical documents; - Details were provided of how to respond to the publicity. This included the DCO Proposed Development website, email and freepost addresses and a telephone number; - Each notice stated a deadline for the receipt of responses, being in excess of 28 days and running from the date when the Section 48 Notice was last published.
----	---	---

Information		Paragraph	
a)	the name and address of the Applicant.	Yes. Paragraph 1 states : “Notice is hereby given that Cadent Gas Limited (Cadent) (the “Applicant”) of Pilot Way, Ansty CV7 9JU...”	b) a statement that the Applicant intends to make an application for development consent to the Secretary of State Yes. Paragraph 1: “...intends to make an application to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero under Section 37 (applications for orders granting development consent) of the Planning Act 2008 for development consent”
c)	a statement as to whether the application is EIA development	Yes. Paragraph 8: “The Project is an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) development as defined in the Infrastructure Planning	d) a summary of the main proposals, specifying the location or route of the Proposed Development Yes. Paragraphs 2-7 provide a summary of the project, including the location and approximate route of the pipeline

		(Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017”		
e)	a statement that the documents, plans and maps showing the nature and location of the Proposed Development are available for inspection free of charge on a website maintained by or on behalf of the Applicant, including the address of the website; the place on the website where the documents, plans and maps may be inspected; and a telephone number which can be used to contact the Applicant for enquiries in relation to the documents, plans and maps	Yes. Paragraph 16: “Copies of the consultation materials including documents, plans and maps showing the nature and location of the Project will be available to view or download free of charge from 14th October 2024 until 23.59 on 19th November 2024 on the Applicant’s website: www.hynethydrogenpipeline.co.uk/our-current-proposals/knowledge-hub/ ”	f)	the latest date on which those documents, plans and maps will be available for inspection on the website
g)	whether a charge will be made for copies of any of the documents, plans or maps and the amount of any charge	Yes. Paragraphs 17 and 18: “Alternatively, copies of the consultation documents may be obtained by calling our community relations team on 0800 860 6261 or by emailing info@hynethydrogenpipeline.co.uk following the launch of consultation and may be requested as an electronic or paper copy. A reasonable copying charge will apply for paper copies of the Draft Environmental Statement (up to a maximum of £150 for the full suite of documents). An electronic copy will be free of charge”	h)	details of how to respond to the publicity
				Yes. Paragraph 14: “Consultation on the proposals will take place from 14th October 2024 to 23:59 on 19th November 2024.”
				Yes. Paragraphs 24-27 set out how to respond to the publicity.

i)	a deadline for receipt of those responses by the Applicant, being not less than 28 days following the date when the notice is last published	Yes. Paragraph 28: “Any responses to, or other representations in respect of, the Project should be received by 23:59 on 19th November 2024. Responses received after this time may not be considered.” This is more than 28 days from the date the notice was published.	
21	Are there any observations in respect of the s48 notice provided above?		
	n/a		
22	Has a copy of the s48 notice been sent to the EIA consultation bodies and to any person notified to the Applicant in accordance with the EIA Regulations ²³ ?	Yes. The approach to EIA consultation is set out in the Consultation Report as submitted at Application	
s49: Duty to take account of responses to consultation and publicity			
23	Has the Applicant had regard to any relevant responses to the s42, s47 and s48 consultation?	Yes. All responses received to the consultation have been considered by the Applicant. A full list of responses received during the Stage 3 Consultation will be made available within the Consultation Report as submitted with the Application	
Guidance about pre-application procedure			
24	To what extent has the Applicant had regard to statutory guidance ‘Planning Act 2008: Guidance on the pre-application process’ ²⁴ ?	Section 2.5 of the Stage 2 Consultation Summary Report (available at: https://www.hynethydrogenpipeline.co.uk/knowledge-hub/) and throughout the Report sets out how this has been complied with.	

²³ Regulation 13 of the 2017 EIA Regulations, or where Regulation 37 of the 2017 EIA Regulations applies, Regulation 11 of the 2009 EIA Regulations

²⁴ The Planning Inspectorate must have regard to the extent to which the Applicant has had regard to guidance issued under s50

Appendix E Stage One Consultation Compliance Table

Commitment	Evidence
Feedback from residents of [each host authority], their representatives and other stakeholders will be important in helping us refine the project design and understand more about the local area.	Those invited to provide feedback in the Stage 1 Non-Statutory Consultation include local communities, elected representatives, special and local interest groups (e.g. wildlife trusts, professional bodies, etc.), seldom heard groups (e.g. young people, people with physical disabilities, etc.), and prescribed consultees (e.g. Natural England).
We intend to carry out two stages of public consultation as part of the pre-application stage of our Development Consent Order application. The first of these will be a non-statutory consultation on the route corridors we have identified for a potential pipeline route, which will take place in Q1 2022. This consultation will run for six weeks. We will hold a further, statutory consultation on a preferred route for the pipeline (and our Preliminary Environmental Information) later in 2022. We'll also consult with the council on our Statement of Community Consultation.	The Stage 1 Non-Statutory Consultation was carried out between 26 January and 11 March 2022, a period of just over 6 weeks. The Stage 2 Statutory Consultation was carried out between 12 September and 10 November 2022. Host authorities were consulted on the SoCC for the Stage 2 Consultation between 21 June and 22 July 2022. Following the Stage 2 Consultation, Cadent have carried out further environmental, engineering and design work, and so a third stage of consultation as carried out to present the updated design, held between 14 October and 19 November 2024. Host authorities were consulted on the SoCC for the Statutory Stage Three Consultation between 09 July and 06 August 2024.
At the launch of consultation, we will write to residents of [the host authorities] that are within our consultation zone [as provided] directly to tell them how they can find out more about our proposals and provide feedback.	At the start of the consultation, a consultation postcard was distributed to 15,402 residential and commercial addresses within the Consultation Zone. It provided a brief description of the Project and directed people to the project website for more information and to provide feedback.
Outside of this direct consultation zone, we will publicise the consultation periods and events via print and online – through paid-for adverts and press releases. This advertising will be targeted at the entire region, including residents within [the host authorities]. Publications we are considering engaging with in your area: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mid Cheshire Guardian series (print) ○ Liverpool Echo / Manchester Evening News (digital) 	Print advertising was published on 27 January 2022 (“Consultation Open”) and 24 February 2022 (“Consultation Closing”; approximately 2 weeks prior to consultation closing) in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Northwich Guardian; ○ Winsford and Middlewich Guardian; ○ Knutsford Guardian; and ○ Warrington Guardian. A press release was issued at the beginning of the consultation period to notify people that the Stage One Consultation was open. It also provided an explanation of the proposals and told people where they could find more information and how to take part. This press release appeared in a national trade publications twice (Energy Digital), and in four regional publications (Business News Wales, Chester Standard, Northwich Guardian, and Runcorn and Widnes World). To coincide with the end of consultation another press release was issued. This thanked consultees for taking part, notified them of the next steps and that statutory consultation was planned for autumn 2022. This press release appeared in four national trade publications (Global Hydrogen Review, H2 View, Trade Insider Media, and World Pipelines) and four regional publications (Business News Wales, Chester Standard, Northwich Guardian, and Warrington Guardian). Digital advertising details from 26 January to 11 March 2022:

	<p>Digital adverts were displayed on all Reach plc outlets and targeted to IP addresses across the North West. This included regional online platforms such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Manchester Evening News (www.manchestereveningnews.co.uk) ○ Liverpool Echo (www.manchestereveningnews.co.uk) ○ Cheshire Live (www.cheshire-live.co.uk) <p>And national online platforms such as</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Daily Mirror (www.mirror.co.uk) ○ Daily Express (www.express.co.uk) ○ Daily Star (www.dailystar.co.uk) <p>Search adverts linking through to the project website were displayed on Google. These adverts were targeted at IP addresses across the North West and appeared whenever a pre-defined phrase was searched for. These phrases included 'north west hydrogen pipeline' and 'north west hydrogen', for example.</p>
<p>We will also carry out promotion of the consultation via social media and online advertising.</p>	<p>Social media content was published via the wider HyNet North West project social media channels (Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn). Online advertising was conducted as above.</p>
<p>The project website will be the central hub for information.</p>	<p>The project website remains live for all to use. Available at: https://www.hynethydrogenpipeline.co.uk/</p>
<p>We intend to provide reference copies of our materials in public locations within the project area. We will also put up posters publicising the consultation at these venues.</p> <p>Within Cheshire East Council, we are considering:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Knutsford Library, Toft Rd, Knutsford WA16 0PG ○ High Legh Village Hall, West Lane, High Legh, Knutsford WA16 6LR <p>Within Warrington Borough Council, we are considering:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Warrington Library, Golden Square, Sankey St, Warrington WA1 1TD ○ Meeting Lane Community Centre, Meeting Lane, Warrington WA5 2QX ○ Friends Of Grappenhall Library, Victoria Ave, Grappenhall, Warrington WA4 2PF ○ Lymm Library, off Davies Way, Brookfield Rd, Lymm WA13 0QW <p>Within Trafford, we are considering:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Altrincham Library, 2 Pott St, Altrincham WA14 1AH ○ Partington Library, 91 Central Rd, Partington, Manchester M31 4FY ○ Partington Community Centre, Central Road, Partington, Manchester M31 4FL <p>Within Cheshire West and Chester Council, we are considering:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Hartford Village Hall, 244 Chester Road, Hartford, Northwich CW8 1LW ○ Whitley Village Hall, Village Lane, Higher Whitley, Warrington WA4 4EJ 	<p>In addition to materials being available on the website and on request, copies of consultation materials (the consultation brochure, poster and feedback forms) were deposited at high footfall information points, such as libraries, across the Consultation Zone. A minimum of 2 locations were available in each host authority. These are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Anderton Village Hall - Chester Library at Storyhouse - Frodsham Community Centre - Frodsham Library - Grappenhall Library - Hartford Village Hall - High Legh Village Hall - Knutsford Library - Meeting Lane Community Centre - Mere and Tabley Community Centre - Northwich Library - Partington Community Centre - Partington Library - Rainhill Library - Runcorn Old Town Library - St Helens Library - The ROC Centre - Warrington Library - Whitley Village Hall - Widnes Cricket Club - Widnes Library

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Frodsham Community Centre, Fluin Ln, Frodsham WA6 7QN ○ Northwich Library, Witton St, Northwich CW9 5DR ○ Frodsham Library, Princeway, Frodsham WA6 6RX ○ Chester Library, Hunter Street, Chester CH1 2AR <p>Within St Helens Council, we are considering:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ St Helens Library, The World of Glass, Chalon Way E, Saint Helens WA10 1BX ○ Rainhill Library, 15 View Rd, Rainhill, Prescot L35 0LE <p>Within Halton Borough Council we are considering:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Widnes Library, Victoria Square, Widnes WA8 7QT ○ Moorfield Sports and Social Club, Moorfield Road, Widnes WA8 3HQ <p>Runcorn Library, Granville St, Runcorn WA7 1NE</p>	
<p>Across the project area, we will hold eight in-person consultation events and two online webinars in total. These events will be an opportunity for people to ‘drop in’ and ask any questions they may have about the project. They will be staffed by members of the project team from a range of disciplines. Each event will be three hours and will be arranged on different days and times to give people as much opportunity as possible to attend.</p> <p>In Cheshire East Council, we intend to hold one event (listed and pictured below):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ High Legh Village Hall, West Lane, Knutsford WA16 6LR. <p>In Warrington Borough Council, we intend to hold one event (listed and pictured below):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Meeting Lane Community Centre, Meeting Lane, Warrington WA5 2QX <p>In Trafford District Council, we intend to hold one event (listed and pictured below):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Partington Community Centre, Central Road, Partington M31 4FL <p>In Cheshire West and Chester, we intend to hold one event (listed and pictured below):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Hartford Village Hall, 244 Chester Road, Hartford, Northwich CW8 1LW ○ Whitley Village Hall, Village Lane, Higher Whitley, Warrington WA4 4EJ ○ Frodsham Community Centre, Fluin Ln, Frodsham WA6 7QN <p>In St Helens Council, we intend to hold one event (listed and pictured below):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Shining Lights Community Centre, Saint Helens WA9 4AT <p>In Halton Borough Council, we intend to hold one event (listed and pictured below):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Moorfield Sports and Social Club, Moorfield Road, Widnes WA8 3HQ 	<p>A dynamic approach to consultation events was adopted to cover the broad project area and ensure that events were as accessible as possible to consultees of all ages and lifestyles. As such, events were organised in the following way:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Events were held across the Consultation Zone (see paragraph 2.4.1 and Appendix G). ○ Events were held in different locations and times to accommodate anyone who may have wanted to come along after typical working hours. ○ Events were also hosted on a Friday evening and on a Saturday to provide adequate opportunity for those who may work during the week and were unable to attend the weekday events. ○ Online events were available for those who may not have wished to, or were unable to, travel to and attend an in-person event. <p>The events were publicised as drop-in events, which meant people were encouraged to stop by at a time convenient for them, to have individual conversations with members of the project team. The in-person events were held at venues selected based on their proximity to the preferred route corridor and prominence within local communities, disabled access, and available parking. All venues were subject to a thorough health and safety check.</p> <p>The events included project team representatives from a range of technical and non-technical disciplines (including a mix of specialists from the engineering, lands, consents, and community relations teams) so that a broad range of queries from attendees could be responded to. Key project materials were available at in-person events, including display panels explaining the Project, and large-scale maps were also made available.</p> <p>In addition to the in-person and online events, a virtual exhibition space was hosted on the Project website. This provided a virtual example of what a physical</p>

	<p>event space looked like. Users could view information on virtual exhibition panels and click on the panels and accompanying hotspots to access more information and provide feedback.</p> <p>In-person events were held at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mere and Tabley Community Club, 15.02.2022 10:00-13:00 ○ The Fuse ROC Centre, 15.02.2022 15:00-19:00 ○ Anderton Village Hall, 16.02.2022 10:00-13:00 ○ Widnes Cricket Club, 16.02.2022 15:00-19:00 ○ Online events, hosted on Zoom, 17.02.2022 and 22.02.2022 at 18:00-19:00 ○ Warrington Football Club, 23.02.2022 15:00-19:00 ○ World of Glass, 24.02.2022 11:00-16:00 ○ St John’s Church Centre, 25.02.2022 16:30-20:30 <p>Whitley Village Hall, 26.02.2022 10:00-14:00</p>
<p>We’re currently in the process of identifying all of the stakeholders – local, regional and national – that we’ll engage with during our consultations. Part of this will include identifying local interest groups and those that may not normally take part in consultations or require support to engage fully.</p>	<p>Seldom heard groups: Representatives of people considered seldom heard. Examples of groups considered seldom heard include young people, old people, people with physical disabilities or learning difficulties, and people for whom English is not their first language. During the consultation the project team sought to identify interested parties to include in future engagement.</p>

Appendix F Stage Two SoCC Compliance Table

Para ref	Commitment	Evidence
3.2.3	We will publicise and consult on the PEIR and will be seeking comments on the information contained in it through the approaches set out in Section 4 of this SoCC.	The PEIR and a non-technical summary were published as part of the Stage Two Consultation. These were available to view on the project website, at consultation events, and copies were available on request. Copies of the Non-Technical Summary were also available at Information Points.
3.3.8	Section 48 of the PA 2008 requires the proposed application for development consent to be publicised in local and national newspapers and for Cadent to invite responses on the proposals. We are publishing the notice of the proposed application at the same time as undertaking our statutory consultation with local planning authorities, statutory consultees, owners and occupiers of land and the general public in respect of the Project.	Section 48 notices and combined Section 47 and 48 notices were placed in three newspapers at the initial proposed start of the consultation. These were then updated following the postponement of the consultation, due the period of National Mourning following the death of Her Majesty the Queen and re-published on 22 and 29 September 2022.
4.2.1	The Stage Two Consultation was due to take place over a 42 day period from the 12 September 2022 to 24 October 2022. Following the need to amend the dates for the consultation as identified in the Preface to this document, the Stage 2 Consultation will now take place for 43 days from Thursday 29 September 2022 to Thursday 10 November 2022.	The Stage Two Consultation, while 'unofficially' launched on 12 September 2022, was relaunched on 29 September 2022 to run until 10 November 2022, a total of 6 weeks. Changes were made as a mark of respect following the death of the Queen, supporting a national mourning period.
4.2.2	All consultation responses should be received by 11.59pm on 10 November 2022. This deadline will be made clear on the literature and other documents relating to the consultation.	The deadline for the receipt of consultation responses was included on the updated consultation postcard, updated posters and the project website.
4.2.2	Postal responses received after this date with a date stamp on or before 24 October 2022 will be accepted.	A buffer period of four days was allowed for the receipt of postal responses with a date stamp on or before 10 November 2022. No postal responses were received during this time.
4.3.5	Cadent recognises that there may be interest in the Project beyond the Consultation Zone. The Project will therefore be promoted digitally and in print, with press releases and advertising, via media outlets whose reach extends beyond the Consultation Zone.	Print advertisements were placed in the Knutsford Guardian, Northwich Guardian, Warrington Guardian, Chester Standard and St Helens Star. Press releases were issued to local media in stages before, during and after the consultation period. Coverage was provided in a range of local and industry publications. Digital advertisements were placed on the websites of the Chester Standard, St Helens Star and Reach plc publications (including the Liverpool Echo and

Para ref	Commitment	Evidence
		Manchester Evening News), as well as with Google and Spotify.
4.3.5	All information will also be available on the Project's website to all consultees who wish to visit, unrestricted by geographic location.	All project and consultation information were provided on the project website for all who wished to visit. Access to the website was not restricted by geographic location.
4.3.6	As outlined in Section 3 of this SoCC, at the same time as consulting the local community we will consult a wide range of statutory consultees on the Project, in accordance with Section 42 of the PA 2008. These include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Host and neighbouring local authorities; - Prescribed consultees (such as Natural England and Environment Agency); and - People with an interest in land that might be affected by the proposals. 	Letters were sent to Section 42 consultees on 29 September 2022 to notify them of the Stage Two Consultation, including a copy of the Section 48 notice and links to the project website. Letters were also sent to Persons with an Interest in Land as defined under Section 44 of the PA 2008 on 5 September 2022 with a further letter explaining the elongation of the consultation period sent on 20 September 2022.
4.3.7	A copy of the Section 48 notice will also be sent to all "consultation bodies" in accordance with Regulation 13 of the EIA Regulations.	A copy of the Section 48 notice was sent to the consultation bodies (as defined in the EIA Regulations) along with their letters (as described above).
4.3.8	We will undertake the Stage Two Consultation with the local community. This will include those living in the vicinity of the Project, businesses and non-residential properties near the proposals	Consultation postcards were distributed to over 20,000 residential and business addresses in the Consultation Zone on 23 August and 20 September 2022 inviting them to take part.
4.3.11	In addition to consultees prescribed under sections 42, 44 and 47 of the PA 2008, we have identified a number of individuals and organisations with whom we will voluntarily consult. These include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bodies and individuals who are not defined as prescribed consultees in Schedule 1 of the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 (as amended). This includes local bodies and technical consultees such as local Wildlife Trust, the National Trust and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB); and - Ward Councillors and MPs in relevant areas. 	A list of wider, non-statutory stakeholders consulted as part of the Stage Two Consultation was provided.
4.3.12	A proposed list of the wider stakeholders to be consulted will be continually reviewed alongside discussions with the local authorities with consideration of hard to reach/seldom-heard groups and consultation feedback. This is to ensure that anyone who	A list of wider, non-statutory stakeholders consulted as part of the Stage Two Consultation was provided.

Para ref	Commitment	Evidence
	requests to be included as a consultee has the same opportunity to provide feedback as those prescribed by legislation.	
4.4.2	At the start of the Stage Two Consultation, a postcard notifying consultees about the consultation and that our design has been updated will be issued to everyone in the Consultation Zone. This will provide a brief summary of the Project and details of the consultation, including how to provide feedback and where more information can be accessed.	Consultation postcards were sent on 23 August 2022, notifying consultees of the Stage Two Consultation. A further postcard was sent on 20 September 2022 following postponement of the consultation due the death of Her Majesty the Queen and the subsequent period of National Mourning.
4.4.3	The dedicated Project website (www.hynethydrogenpipeline.co.uk) will continue to be the primary focal point to access information about the Project. It will be fully updated to include details of the Project and the Stage Two Consultation.	Screenshots of the project website displaying information on the Stage Two Consultation, and providing consultation materials, were included in the Consultation Summary Report.
4.4.4	All information will be written in non-technical language, supplemented with visual materials, to help explain the Project. The website will make clear how people can take part in the consultation, including an interactive feedback map and online feedback form.	Screenshots of the project website displaying information on the Stage Two Consultation, including the interactive feedback map and online feedback form, were included in the Consultation Summary Report.
4.4.5	Following the close of the Stage Two Consultation, the website will continue to provide a library of documents that were available during the consultation but clearly indicate that the period to provide feedback has closed.	The website continues to provide a library of documents in a folder indicating that they are relevant to the second, statutory consultation.
4.4.6	For the Stage Two Consultation, we will provide documents, maps and plans to detail the nature and location of the Project. These documents will be designed to assist those who wish to comment on the Project, and will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consultation Brochure - This non-technical document will summarise the elements of the Project, including maps, along with information on its potential effects. It will also provide a clear description of how people can provide feedback into the consultation; - Feedback Form – A feedback form will be provided for anyone wishing to respond, highlighting the specific matters we are seeking feedback on. The form will be capable of being completed by hand (and returnable using the 'Freepost' address) or online via the Project website 	The consultation documents listed under Section 5.6 were published for inspection and feedback as part of the Stage Two Consultation.

Para ref	Commitment	Evidence
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Design Evolution Report (DER) – Details of the routeing process/options undertaken to date; and - Environmental assessments – This will comprise the PEIR and supporting documentation which outline the assessments conducted to date, what we propose to construct and where, and the decisions made in developing our proposals. 	
4.4.7	All consultation documents will be available on the project website from the start of the consultation period, with hard copies available on request from the project team and provided for reference at in-person events.	All consultation documents were available for inspection at in-person events. All documents were also available for download from the project website.
4.4.9	<p>We will hold nine consultation events in publicly accessible venues across the Project area. Events will take place at the venues set out in Table 4.1 between 1 October 2022 and 31 October 2022 (Revised SoCC). Events will typically be four hours long. The venues that have been selected have taken reasonable steps to provide access for disabled people and are known to local communities in the vicinity of the Project.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Milner Church Institute • Whitley Village Hall • Frodsham Community Centre • Fuse ROC Centre • Anderton Village Hall • St Stephen's Church Hall • Warrington Football Club • Thatto Heath Library • High Legh Village Hall 	<p>Consultation exhibition events were held at the following accessible venues known to the local community:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Milner Church Institute • Whitley Village Hall • Frodsham Community Centre • Fuse ROC Centre • Anderton Village Hall • St Stephen's Church Hall • Warrington Football Club • Thatto Heath Library • High Legh Village Hall <p>Members of the project team also attended the cancelled consultation events to provide information to those that did not get the details of the cancellation.</p> <p>Online webinar events were held on 4 and 20 October 2022, both from 18:00 to 19:00.</p>
4.4.10	Members of the Project team will be available to answer questions about the proposals, assist with the interpretation of materials and provide guidance on the completion of feedback forms.	Members of the Project team were on hand to answer questions from attendees at the consultation events.
4.4.11	If government advice or local circumstances change as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, and it is necessary to adjust the approach to public exhibitions, we will engage with the host local authorities to agree suitable alternative arrangements; such as further digital consultation events/activities.	Government advice and local circumstances related to COVID-19 remained unchanged for the consultation period, meaning that it was not necessary for alternative arrangements to be agreed.

Para ref	Commitment	Evidence
4.4.12	If the need arises to cancel the use of consultation event locations due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all consultation materials will remain available on the project website.	Venues did not become unavailable due to the COVID-19 pandemic, meaning that this course of action was not required.
4.4.13	Should any in-person events need to be cancelled for any reason, the most appropriate mitigation would be identified on a case-by-case basis in consultation with the relevant Local Planning Authorities. This would typically involve expanding the number of online events, as an efficient way of replacing the in-person events.	Due to the period of National Mourning after the death of Her Majesty the Queen, in-person events were postponed and rescheduled for after this period. This was accompanied by a revision to the SoCC in consultation with the host Local Planning Authorities, and additional publicity to notify consultees of date changes.
4.4.14	In addition to the in-person consultation events, we will provide a virtual exhibition space, accessed via the project website. This will allow consultees to view and access the materials provided at the in-person exhibition events and submit their feedback.	The virtual exhibition space was included on the project website, published on 12 September 2022, and remained live throughout the consultation period.
4.4.15	To provide a further opportunity for those who may not be able to attend in person events but want to ask questions of the project team, the Project will also hold two online events. Consultees will be able to register to attend on the project website. These events will consist of a presentation from the project team and an opportunity to ask members of the project team questions.	Online webinar events were held on 4 and 20 October 2022, both from 18:00 to 19:00.
4.4.18	During the consultation, hard copies of the Consultation Brochure and the PEIR Non-Technical Summary (NTS) will be available for inspection from the following publicly accessible locations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chester Lane Community Centre Library • Frodsham Library • Grappenhall Library • Knutsford Library • Northwich Library • Partington Library • Rainhill Library • Runcorn Old Town Library • St Helens Library • Thatto Heath Library • Weaverham Library • Warrington Library 	Hard copies of the consultation brochure, the non-technical summary of the PEIR, and the SoCC were available for inspection at the Information Points listed, apart from Northwich Library due to a short term closure. A further Information Point (Weaverham Library) was included within this locality as an alternative place to view documents.
4.4.19	If the need arises to cancel the use of information points due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all consultation materials will remain available on the project website.	Information Points did not become unavailable due to the COVID-19 pandemic, meaning that this course of action was not required.

Para ref	Commitment	Evidence
4.4.21	At the start of the Stage Two Consultation, Cadent will publish statutory notices (as outlined in Section 3 of this SoCC) in local and national newspapers providing details about the consultation, as required by Section 47 and Section 48 of the PA 2008.	Statutory notices were placed in three newspapers and ran on 5, 12 and 19 September 2022. Updated statutory notices were then re-published on 22 and 29 September 2022 following postponement of the consultation due to the period of National Mourning.
4.4.22 to 4.4.25	Three press releases will be issued to the local media during the consultation. The first press release will be issued by 22 September 2022. It will announce that “consultation is open” and set out key information on what the consultation will cover and how the local community can get involved and provide feedback. The second press release will be issued in the middle of consultation. It will include raising awareness of the upcoming deadline for feedback and encourage the local community to take part. A final press release will be issued after the close of consultation. This will confirm that the consultation is now closed and will thank the local community for taking part.	The first press release was issued on 20 September 2022, announcing commencement of the consultation and advising of rescheduled events due to the period of National Mourning. The second press release was issued on 31 October 2022 raising awareness of the upcoming deadline for feedback. The final press release was issued 11 October 2022 confirming closure of the consultation period.
4.4.26	Notification of the consultation will be issued by email to all prescribed consultees (i.e. those identified in Schedule 1 of the 2009 Regulations) at the start of the consultation period, along with all stakeholders who have registered for email updates through the project website. This includes all host authorities.	Notification emails were sent on 1 September 2022 to all prescribed consultees and stakeholders who registered for email updates. For the six consultees that the project team did not have email addresses for - Greater Manchester Combined Authority, Mersey Reactive Power Limited, Electricity North West Limited, Carrington Power Limited, Peel Ports, and Transport for the North - hard copies of the notification letter were sent by post to land on 9 September and 22 September. Further email notifications were sent on 9 and 22 September 2022 to announce the postponement of the consultation due to the death of Her Majesty the Queen and to provide details of the rescheduled events, respectively.
4.4.27	Where an in-person consultation event venue is located outside of the Consultation Zone, posters advertising these events will be placed in the local area.	Posters sent to 33 locations including schools, village shops and leisure centres.
4.4.28	An advertising campaign will take place across regional print media, online regional platforms, Google Ads, Spotify and social media in the week of consultation launch. This will include publishing adverts in the publications set out below in Table 4.3 to	Print advertisements were placed in the Knutsford Guardian, Northwich Guardian, Warrington Guardian, Chester Standard and St Helens Star. Press releases were issued to local media in stages before, during and after the

Para ref	Commitment	Evidence
	<p>raise awareness of the consultation and encourage people to provide feedback.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knutsford Guardian (print) • Northwich Guardian (print) • Warrington Guardian (print) • Liverpool Echo (online) • Chester Standard (print and digital) • St Helens Star (print and digital) • Reach plc publications (including Manchester Evening News and Liverpool Echo) (digital) 	<p>consultation period. Coverage was provided in a range of local and industry publications.</p> <p>Digital advertisements were placed on the websites of the Chester Standard, St Helens Star and Reach plc publications (including the Liverpool Echo and Manchester Evening News), as well as with Google and Spotify.</p> <p>Social media content was posted by from the HyNet North West project's Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn pages.</p>
4.4.29	<p>A dedicated contact number (0800 860 6261) will be provided for the duration of the Stage Two Consultation. This was previously used successfully during the Stage One Consultation. Contact details will be publicised in all consultation materials.</p>	<p>The dedicated contact number was live and operational 24 hours a day for the duration of the consultation. The contact number was included on the consultation postcards, brochure, posters, feedback form and published SoCC.</p>
4.4.30	<p>Consultees will be able to call the contact team to discuss the Project, leave a message or request hard copies of documents. We aim to respond to all queries relating to the consultation and the Project promptly and within a reasonable timeframe.</p>	<p>33 telephone enquiries were received during the consultation period, all of which were responded to by the project team.</p>
4.4.31	<p>The dedicated contact email address previously available during the Stage One Consultation 'info@hynethydrogenpipeline.co.uk' will also be provided for the Stage Two Consultation for queries.</p>	<p>The dedicated contact email address was live during the consultation period and remained available following close of the consultation period. 200 enquiries were received and responded to through this channel.</p>
4.5.1	<p>Cadent recognises that some consultees will be unable to participate in the consultation without assistance and will ensure that all members of the community can participate and are not disadvantaged in the consultation process. To enable this, we will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensure all exhibition venues selected have taken reasonable steps to provide access for disabled people; - Use local venues known to be used and accessible by hard-to-reach/seldom heard groups where possible; - Provide translation services where appropriate, on request; and - Publish the consultation brochure in large copy print, audio or Braille on request. 	<p>Public exhibition events were held at the following accessible venues known to the local community:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Milner Church Institute • Whitley Village Hall • Frodsham Community Centre • Fuse ROC Centre • Anderton Village Hall • St Stephen's Church Hall • Warrington Football Club • Thatto Heath Library • High Legh Village Hall <p>Translation services were available on request were appropriate. Large copy print, audio and Braille versions of the consultation brochure were also available on request.</p> <p>Online webinar events were held on 4 and 20 October 2022, both from 18:00 to 19:00.</p>

Para ref	Commitment	Evidence
4.5.2	<p>Cadent has also identified a number of gatekeeper organisations, which represent individuals or groups that may need additional activities to take part in the consultation (see the Stage Two SoCC, available on the project website). The Project will email these groups four weeks in advance of the consultation launch to give sufficient time for these organisations to reach individuals and groups, and to define additional support required.</p>	<p>Gatekeeper organisations were notified by email on 16 August 2022, four weeks in advance of the original consultation launch. Further emails were sent to these groups on 9 and 22 September 2022 to advise of the postponement of the consultation and to provide details of the rescheduled events, respectively.</p>

Appendix G Stage Three SoCC Compliance Table

Para ref	Commitment	Evidence
3.2.3 and 3.2.4	<p>In accordance with the requirements in Regulation 12 of the 2017 EIA Regs, the preliminary results of the EIA were presented in a 'Preliminary Environmental Information Report' (PEIR) during the statutory Stage Two Consultation.</p> <p>Stage Three will present initial drafts of the Environmental Statement (ES).</p>	<p>The Draft Environmental Statement and a non-technical summary were published as part of the Stage Three Consultation. These were available to view on the project website, at consultation events and copies were available on request. Copies of the Non-Technical Summary of the Draft Environmental Statement were also available at Information Points.</p>
3.3.8	<p>Section 48 of the PA 2008 requires the proposed application for development consent to be publicised in local and national newspapers and for Cadent to invite responses on the proposals. We are publishing the notice of the proposed application at the same time as undertaking our statutory consultation with local planning authorities, statutory consultees, owners and occupiers of land and the general public in respect of the Project.</p>	<p>Combined Section 47 and 48 notices were placed in three newspapers at the start of the consultation in accordance with the requirements of Section 47 and Section 48 of the Planning Act 2008.</p> <p>Notices placed in:</p> <p>The Guardian – 14 October (S47 / S48 combined)</p> <p>London Gazette – 14 October (S47 / S48 combined)</p> <p>Manchester Evening News - 14 October (S47 / S48 combined) and 24 October (S47 / S48 combined)</p>
4.2.1	<p>The Stage Three Consultation will take place Autumn 2024, for a period of five weeks. We are currently awaiting information from the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero before providing dates. Dates of the Consultation Period will be made clear in the published notices.</p>	<p>The Stage Three Consultation started on the 14 October 2024 and ran until 19 November 2024, a total of 5 weeks. The dates for the consultation period were provided in the section 47 and 48 notices.</p>
4.2.2	<p>All consultation responses should be received by the final date of the consultation Period. The deadline will be made clear on the literature and other documents relating to the consultation. We cannot guarantee that responses received after the final date of the consultation will be taken into consideration.</p>	<p>The deadline for the receipt of consultation responses was included on the statutory notices, the updated consultation postcard, updated posters, feedback form, consultation brochures and the project website to reflect the close of 23.59, 19 November 2024.</p>
4.3.6	<p>Cadent recognises that there may be interest in the Project beyond the Consultation Zone. The Project will therefore be promoted digitally and in print, with press releases and advertising, via media outlets whose reach extends beyond the Consultation Zone.</p>	<p>Print advertisements were placed in the Knutsford Guardian, Northwich Guardian, Warrington Guardian, Chester Standard and St Helens Star.</p> <p>Press releases were issued to local media in stages before, during and after the consultation period.</p>

Para ref	Commitment	Evidence
		Digital advertisements were placed on the websites of the Chester Standard, St Helens Star and Reach plc publications (including the Liverpool Echo and Manchester Evening News), as well as with Google.
4.3.6	All information will also be available on the Project's website to all consultees who wish to visit, unrestricted by geographic location.	All project and consultation information was provided on the project website for all who wished to visit. Access to the website was not restricted by geographic location.
4.3.7	<p>As outlined in Section 3 of this SoCC, at the same time as consulting the local community we will consult a wide range of statutory consultees on the Project, in accordance with Section 42 of the PA 2008. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Host and neighbouring local authorities; - Prescribed consultees (such as Natural England and Environment Agency); and - People with an interest in land that might be affected by the proposals. 	<p>Letters were sent to Section 42 consultees to land on 14th October 2024 to notify them of the Stage Three Consultation, including a copy of the Section 47/48 notice and links to the project website.</p> <p>Letters and the Section 47/48 notice were also sent to Persons with an Interest in Land as defined under Section 44 of the PA 2008 to land on 14th October 2024.</p> <p>Letters to Section 42 consultees were sent with tracked 48-hour postage.</p> <p>Letters sent to Persons with an Interest in Land were sent with tracked 24-hour postage to also land on 14th October.</p> <p>Letters were sent as hard-copies and where available also via email. Emails were issued on 14 October.</p> <p>A Section 42 letter was sent to Severn Trent Water on 6 November 2024 by post and email with an extension to the consultation deadline to 6 December.</p> <p>2 emails were issued to additional Persons with Interest in Land on 11 December 2024 with an extension date to 6 January 2025.</p> <p>27 letters were issued to additional Persons with an Interest in Land on 22 November with an extension date to 20 December.</p> <p>4 letters were issued to additional Persons with an Interest in Land on 18 November with an extension date to 16 December.</p> <p>4 letters were issued to additional Persons with an Interest in Land on 30 October with an extension date to 4 December.</p>

Para ref	Commitment	Evidence
4.3.8	A copy of the Section 48 notice will also be sent to all “consultation bodies” in accordance with Regulation 13 of the EIA Regulations.	A copy of the Section 47/48 notice was sent to the consultation bodies (as defined in the EIA Regulations) along with their letters (as described above).
4.3.9	We will undertake the Stage Three Consultation with the local community. This will include those living in the vicinity of the Project, businesses and non-residential properties near the proposals	17,900 Consultation postcards were distributed to residential and business addresses in the Consultation Zone landing from 4 th October 2024 inviting them to take part. The Consultation postcards were issued ahead of the 14 th October to allow advance notice of events.
4.3.12	In addition to consultees prescribed under sections 42, 44 and 47 of the PA 2008, we have identified a number of individuals and organisations with whom we will voluntarily consult. These include: Bodies and individuals who are not defined as prescribed consultees in Schedule 1 of the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 (as amended). This includes local bodies and technical consultees such as local Wildlife Trust, the National Trust and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB); and Ward Councillors and MPs in relevant areas.	A list of wider, non-statutory stakeholders consulted as part of the Stage Three Consultation created using the list identified from the Stage Two Consultation.
4.3.13	A proposed list of the wider stakeholders to be consulted will be continually reviewed alongside discussions with the local authorities with consideration of hard to reach/seldom-heard groups and consultation feedback. This is to ensure that anyone who requests to be included as a consultee has the same opportunity to provide feedback as those prescribed by legislation.	A list of wider, non-statutory stakeholders consulted as part of the Stage Two Consultation used to support the Stage Three Consultation.
4.4.2	At the start of the Stage Three Consultation, a postcard notifying consultees about the consultation and that our design has been updated will be issued to everyone in the Consultation Zone. This will provide a brief summary of the Project and details of the consultation, including how to provide feedback and where more information can be accessed.	17,900 Consultation postcards sent landing from 4 th October 2024, notifying consultees of the Stage Three Consultation. The Consultation postcards were issued ahead of the 14 th October to allow advance notice of events.
4.4.3	The dedicated Project website (www.hynethydrogenpipeline.co.uk) will continue to be the primary focal point to access information about the Project. It will	Website updated with information about the consultation (schedule of events and how to leave feedback), updates to the proposals, the Draft Environmental

Para ref	Commitment	Evidence
	be fully updated to include details of the Project and the Stage Three Consultation.	Statement and other consultation documentation. The website was updated with this information on 14 October 2024.
4.4.4	All information will be written in non-technical language, supplemented with visual materials, to help explain the Project. The website will make clear how people can take part in the consultation, including an online feedback form.	Website included online and downloadable feedback forms, an interactive map and virtual exhibition room. Information was available in technical documents and also in non-technical formats such as the non-technical summary of the Draft ES and in the consultation brochure.
4.4.5	Following the close of the Stage Three Consultation, the website will continue to provide a library of documents that were available during the consultation but clearly indicate that the period to provide feedback has closed.	N/A
4.4.6	For the Stage Three Consultation, we will provide documents, maps and plans to detail the nature and location of the Project. These documents will be designed to assist those who wish to comment on the Project, and will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consultation Brochure - This non-technical document will summarise the elements of the Project, including maps, along with information on its potential effects. It will also provide a clear description of how people can provide feedback into the consultation; - Feedback Form – A feedback form will be provided for anyone wishing to respond, highlighting the specific matters we are seeking feedback on. The form will be capable of being completed by hand (and returnable using the ‘Freepost’ address) or online via the Project website; - An updated Design Evolution Report (DER) – Details of the routeing process/optioneering undertaken to date; and - Environmental assessments – This will comprise the initial drafts of the Environmental Statement (ES) and supporting documentation which outline the assessments carried out to date, what we propose to construct and where, and the decisions made in developing our proposals. Supporting documentation will include a draft Biodiversity Mitigation Strategy, a draft Construction Traffic Management Plan, 	The consultation documents listed were published as part of the Stage Three Consultation. They were available on the website and at events.

Para ref	Commitment	Evidence
	a draft Public Rights of Way Management Plan and a draft Outline Drainage Strategy.	
4.4.7	All consultation documents will be available on the project website from the start of the consultation period, with hard copies available on request from the project team and provided for reference at in-person events.	<p>Copies of consultation documents were available for inspection at in-person events. All documents were also available for download from the project website.</p> <p>Hard copy documents were available by request. Requests for the Draft Environmental Statement were subject to a reasonable charge (£150). We did not receive any requests for a full suite of hard-copy documentation, but did provide the Draft Environmental Statement via secure USB.</p>
4.4.9	<p>We will hold eight consultation events in publicly accessible venues across the Project area. Proposed venues for events are set out in Table 4.1. Events will likely take place in Autumn 2024. Events will typically be four hours long. The venues that have been selected have taken reasonable steps to provide access for disabled people and are known to local communities in the vicinity of the Project. Many of the venues were utilised for the Stage One and Stage Two Consultation events.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Milner Church Institute • Whitley Village Hall • Frodsham Community Centre • Fuse ROC Centre • Davenham Methodist Church Hall • Westy Community Centre • Thatto Heath Library • High Legh Village Hall 	<p>Consultation exhibition events were held at the following accessible venues known to the local community.</p> <p>Events were held at a mixture of times and over weekdays and weekends.</p> <p>591 people attended the in-person events in total.</p> <p>Whitley Village Hall - Wednesday 16 October 2024, 4pm to 8pm</p> <p>High Legh Village Hall - Thursday 17 October 2024, 10am to 1pm</p> <p>Frodsham Community Centre - Thursday 17 October 2024, 5pm to 8pm</p> <p>Thatto Heath Library - Friday 18 October 2024, 12pm to 4pm</p> <p>Milner Church Institute - Saturday 19 October 2024, 10am to 3pm</p> <p>Westy Community Centre - Monday 21 October 2024, 3pm to 6pm</p> <p>FUSE ROC - Wednesday 23 October 2024, 10am to 1pm</p> <p>Davenham Methodist Church - Thursday 24 October 2024, 5:30pm to 8:30pm</p>
4.4.10	Members of the Project team will be available to answer questions about the proposals, assist with the interpretation of materials and provide guidance on the completion of feedback forms.	Members of the Project team attended the events to answer questions from attendees at the consultation events.

Para ref	Commitment	Evidence
		The Project team available at events had a range of specialisms including lands, traffic and transport, construction and planning. Members of the team were also available to give advice on how to submit feedback at the event and at home.
4.4.11	If government advice or local circumstances change and it is necessary to adjust the approach to public exhibitions, we will engage with the host local authorities to agree suitable alternative arrangements, such as further digital consultation events/activities.	N/A
4.4.12	If the need arises to cancel the use of consultation event locations due to unforeseen circumstances, all consultation materials will remain available on the project website.	N/A
4.4.13	Should any in-person events need to be cancelled for any reason, the most appropriate mitigation would be identified on a case-by-case basis in consultation with the relevant Local Planning Authorities. This would typically involve expanding the number of online events, as an efficient way of replacing the in-person events.	N/A
4.4.14	In addition to the in-person consultation events, we will provide a virtual exhibition space, accessed via the project website. This will allow consultees to view and access the materials provided at the in-person exhibition events and submit their feedback.	The virtual exhibition space was included on the project website, published on 14 October 2024, and remained live throughout the consultation period. It included information on the project and links to access all documentation and feedback pages.
4.4.15	To provide a further opportunity for those who may not be able to attend in person events but want to ask questions of the project team, the Project will also hold two online events. Consultees will be able to register to attend on the project website. These events will consist of a presentation from the project team and an opportunity to ask members of the project team questions.	Online webinar events were held on 7 and 12 November 2024, both from 18:00 to 19:00. 60 people attended the online events in total. The webinars were publicised on the consultation postcard. Details of the webinars were also included on the poster, consultation brochure and website.
4.4.16	During the consultation, hard copies of the Consultation Brochure and drafts of the	Hard copies of the consultation brochure, poster, feedback forms, the non-technical summary of the Draft ES, and the SoCC

Para ref	Commitment	Evidence
	<p>Environmental Statement (ES) will be available for inspection in publicly accessible locations. Locations are to be confirmed; however we assume we will use the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chester Lane Community Centre Library • Frodsham Library • Grappenhall Library • Knutsford Library • Northwich Library • Partington Library • Rainhill Library • Runcorn Old Town Library • St Helens Library • Thatto Heath Library • Weaverham Library • Warrington Library 	<p>were made available for inspection at the Information Points listed.</p> <p>A note was included on the notices that Northwich Library was temporarily open at Weaver Hall Museum, while the library building on Witton Street is being renovated.</p>
4.4.17	If the need arises to close information points all consultation materials will remain available on the project website.	N/A
4.4.19	At the start of the Stage Three Consultation, Cadent will publish statutory notices (as outlined in Chapter 3 of this SoCC) in local and national newspapers providing details about the consultation, as required by Section 47 and Section 48 of the PA 2008.	<p>Combined Section 47 and 48 notices were placed in three newspapers at the start of the consultation in accordance with the requirements of section 47 and section 48 of the Planning Act 2008.</p> <p>Notices placed in:</p> <p>The Guardian – 14 October (S47 / S48 combined)</p> <p>London Gazette – 14 October (S47 / S48 combined)</p> <p>Manchester Evening News - 14 October (S47 / S48 combined) and 24 October (S47 / S48 combined)</p> <p>Statutory notices were also placed in the above newspapers as part of the Stage Two Consultation.</p>
4.4.20 to 4.4.23	<p>Three press releases will be issued to the local media during the consultation. The first press release will be issued by 1st October 2024. It will announce that “consultation is open” and set out key information on what the consultation will cover and how the local community can get involved and provide feedback. The second press release will be issued in the middle of consultation. It will include raising awareness of the upcoming</p>	<p>The first press release was issued on 14 October 2024, announcing commencement of the consultation. The second press release was issued on 6 November 2024 raising awareness of the upcoming deadline for feedback. The final press release was issued 20 November 2024 confirming closure of the consultation period.</p>

Para ref	Commitment	Evidence
	deadline for feedback and encourage the local community to take part. A final press release will be issued after the close of consultation. This will confirm that the consultation is now closed and will thank the local community for taking part.	
4.4.24	Notification of the consultation will be issued by email to all prescribed consultees (i.e. those identified in Schedule 1 of the 2009 Regulations) at the start of the consultation period, along with all stakeholders who have registered for email updates through the project website. This includes all host authorities.	Notification emails sent on 14 October 2024 to all prescribed consultees and stakeholders who registered for email updates.
4.4.25	Where an in-person consultation event venue is located outside of the Consultation Zone, posters advertising these events will be placed in the local area.	Posters sent to 33 locations including schools, village shops and leisure centres and 12 information points, located inside and outside of the Consultation Zone.
4.4.26	An advertising campaign will take place in the week of consultation launch. This will include publishing adverts in the publications set out below in Table 4.3 to raise awareness of the consultation and encourage people to provide feedback. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knutsford Guardian (print and digital) • Northwich Guardian (print and digital) • Warrington Guardian (print and digital) • Liverpool Echo (online) • Chester Standard (print and digital) • St Helens Star (print and digital) • Reach plc publications (including Manchester Evening News and Liverpool Echo) (digital) 	<p>Print and digital advertisements placed in the Knutsford Guardian, Northwich Guardian, Warrington Guardian, Chester Standard and St Helens Star.</p> <p>Press releases issued to local media in stages before, during and after the consultation period.</p> <p>Press releases also issued to a range of industry publications.</p> <p>Digital advertisements placed on the websites of Local IQ and Reach plc publications (including the Liverpool Echo and Manchester Evening News), as well as with Google.</p> <p>Social media content posted from Cadent's Facebook and LinkedIn pages.</p>
4.4.27	A dedicated contact number (0800 860 6261) will be provided for the duration of the Stage Three Consultation. This was previously used successfully during the Stage One and Stage Two Consultations. Contact details will be publicised in all consultation materials.	The dedicated contact number was live and operational 24 hours a day for the duration of the consultation. The contact number was included on the consultation postcards, brochure, posters, feedback form and published SoCC.
4.4.28	Consultees will be able to call the contact team to discuss the Project, leave a message or request hard copies of documents. We aim to respond to all queries relating to the consultation and the Project promptly and within a reasonable timeframe.	All telephone enquiries received during the consultation period were responded to by the project team. A live phonenumber was available from 9am to 5:30pm on weekdays.

Para ref	Commitment	Evidence
		A voicemail service was available for out-of-hours calls, with calls responded to the next working day.
4.4.29	The dedicated contact email address previously available during the Stage One and Stage Two Consultations 'info@hynethydrogenpipeline.co.uk' will also be provided for the Stage Three Consultation for queries.	The dedicated contact email address was live during the consultation period and remained available following close of the consultation period.
4.5.1	<p>Cadent recognises that some consultees will be unable to participate in the consultation without assistance and will ensure that all members of the community can participate and are not disadvantaged in the consultation process. To enable this, we will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensure all exhibition venues selected have taken reasonable steps to provide access for disabled people; - Use local venues known to be used and accessible by hard-to-reach/seldom heard groups where possible; - Provide translation services where appropriate, on request; and - Publish the consultation brochure in large copy print, audio or Braille on request. 	<p>Public exhibition events were held at accessible venues known to the local community. Venues were risk assessed and checked to ensure they were accessible.</p> <p>Translation services were available on request were appropriate. Large copy print, audio and Braille versions of the consultation brochure were also available on request.</p> <p>We received no requests documents in alternative formats.</p>
4.5.2	Cadent has also identified a number of gatekeeper organisations, which represent individuals or groups that may need additional activities to take part in the consultation. The Project will email these groups four weeks in advance of the consultation launch to give sufficient time for these organisations to reach individuals and groups, and to define additional support required.	Gatekeeper organisations were notified by email on 3 September 2024, in advance of the original consultation launch. The email provided information on the consultation and asked the organisations to provide any suggestions for additional support or methods of engagement we could use.

HyNet North West Hydrogen Pipeline

Delivering clean growth

