



## Meeting note

<b>Project name</b>	<b>Peak Cluster</b>
<b>File reference</b>	<b>EN070012</b>
<b>Status</b>	<b>Final</b>
<b>Author</b>	<b>The Planning Inspectorate</b>
<b>Date</b>	<b>29 January 2024</b>
<b>Meeting with</b>	<b>Peak Cluster</b>
<b>Venue</b>	<b>Microsoft Teams</b>
<b>Meeting objectives</b>	<b>Inception Meeting</b>
<b>Circulation</b>	All attendees

### Summary of key points discussed, and advice given

The Planning Inspectorate (the Inspectorate) advised that a note of the meeting would be taken and published on its website in accordance with section 51 of the Planning Act 2008 (the PA2008). Any advice given under section 51 would not constitute legal advice upon which applicants (or others) could rely.

The Inspectorate explained that the publication of the meeting note could be delayed up to six months (if requested by the Applicant for commercial reasons), or until a formal Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) scoping request had been submitted.

### Project Overview

The Applicant informed that the Proposed Development would aid in decarbonising hard to abate sectors, including cement and lime industries and energy from waste, that cannot be decarbonised in any other way, due to the chemical process involved. The Proposed Development would involve capturing carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) from the 'Peak Cluster' cement and lime facilities, which produce 40% of the UK's lime and cement, with total emissions of approximately three million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> per year.

The Applicant confirmed that the Proposed Development would be an approximately 200km long pipeline, transporting CO<sub>2</sub> from industrial sites to the coast for onward connection to offshore CO<sub>2</sub> stores under the east Irish Sea, making the project a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP). The offshore transportation will be explored via different consenting regimes.

Associated Development would include:

- Carbon capture equipment to decarbonise industrial sites;
- Above ground installations and compressor station(s) including exchange point to offshore;
- Block valves for safe operation; and
- All necessary environmental mitigation, landscaping, Biodiversity Net Gain.

Applications for planning permission, under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, would be made to the relevant Local Planning Authorities for any capture equipment or coastal equipment not included in the Development Consent Order (DCO).

The Inspectorate recommended referring to DCLG guidance and seeking legal advice to see what could be included as Associated Development in the DCO.

The Applicant informed that there would be multiple trunks stemming off the larger pipeline due to geographical constraints. The Applicant demonstrated north and south pipeline route options and was hoping to submit the scoping request and enter Statutory consultation with this refined to one route.

The Inspectorate advised to be mindful of Protective Provisions in the DCO and the Applicant assured it will try to resolve any issues as soon as possible.

The Applicant discussed the inclusion of the Rochdale Envelope in the Project definition, incorporating the 'worst case' parameters for the capture equipment within the scoping request.

### **Consenting Programme**

The Applicant informed that a scoping request would be submitted to the Inspectorate in Q3 2024. The Inspectorate recommended that non-statutory consultation undertaken by the Applicant avoids any overlap with the Inspectorate's statutory scoping processes, to avoid any confusion for respondents. The Applicant confirmed its project programme avoided any such overlap.

Statutory consultation would commence in Q3-Q4 2025, with an anticipated DCO submission of Q1-Q3 2026.

### **Stakeholder Engagement to date**

The Applicant was involved in ongoing engagement with local groups, the Environment Agency and Natural England.

### **Compulsory Acquisition**

The Applicant discussed the land rights required to construct and operate the Proposed Development. The Applicant will seek to reach voluntary agreement with landowners in this regard. However, due to its length, Compulsory Acquisition (CA) is also likely to be required and as such the Inspectorate requested updates on the potential amount of CA at future meetings.

### **Specific decisions/ follow-up required?**

The following actions were agreed:

- The Applicant and the Inspectorate to arrange the next meeting for late May/early June 2024, prior to the EIA scoping request submission.