

Humber Carbon Capture Pipeline

Planning Inspectorate Case Ref: EN0710003

Programme Document

Document Ref: 10607856-ARC-XX-XX-XX-TC-0001-P1-Programme Document

Revision: V8

JULY 2026



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Document Ref.	10607856-ARC-XX-XX-XX-TC-0001-P1-Programme Document
Date	JULY 2026

Version Control

Version	Date	Author	Checker	Reviewer	Approver	Changes
1	28/06/24	JG	DF	JC	KS	
2	05/07/24	JG	DF	JC	KS	
3	02/01/25	AD	DF	JC	KS	
4	12/02/25	AD	DF	JC	KS	
5	22/10/25	AD	AC	JC	KS	
6	12/01/26	AD	AC	JC	KS	
7	08/04/26	AD	AC	JC	KS	
8	21/07/26	AD	AC	JC	KS	

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1 Introduction

1.1 Purpose and Structure

- 1.1.1 This Programme Document has been prepared by Arcadis Consulting UK Ltd on behalf of Net Zero North Sea Storage Limited (Applicant) as a requirement under the *Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: 2024 Pre-Application Prospectus*¹ in respect of the Humber Carbon Capture Pipeline (HCCP) (the Project).
- 1.1.2 The Programme Document is a 'live' document and will be subject to updates as the Project develops. Updates will be made available on a quarterly basis, and these will be publicised on the Project website².
- 1.1.3 In accordance with the Government Guidance on the pre-application stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIP) this Programme Document sets out the anticipated project timetable and describes the activities necessary for effective pre-application engagement with various parties required under the Planning Act 2008. This document has been prepared in line with the requirements for a Programme Document as set out in the *Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: 2024 Pre-application prospectus* but also makes reference to the future amendments to the Planning Act 2008 that will come into force on 24 July 2026³. It also confirms the level of pre-application service requested from the Planning Inspectorate (PINS).
- 1.1.4 This Programme Document is structured as follows:
- Section 2: Background to the Project, including the Project programme;
 - Section 3 – Commentary of the pre-application service provided by the Planning Inspectorate;
 - Section 4 – Programme for the pre-application stage.
 - Section 5: Main Issues for resolution and how the Project will address these;
 - Section 6: Engagement with statutory bodies;
 - Section 7: Engagement with Local Authorities; and
 - Section 8: Pre-application risks and how these will be managed and tracked.

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects-2024-pre-application-prospectus>

² www.nephccp.co.uk

³ The Planning and Infrastructure Act 2025 (Commencement No. 4 and Transitional Provisions) Regulations 2026

2 Background to the Project

- 2.1.1 The UK Government has set legally binding net-zero greenhouse gas emissions targets. These include an amendment to the Climate Change Act 2008 to commit the UK to achieving net-zero by 2050.
- 2.1.2 The East Coast Cluster (ECC), which serves the industrial powerhouse regions of Teesside and the Humber, has been selected as one of the first two carbon capture and storage (CCS) clusters to be taken forward by the UK Government. It includes a diverse mix of projects, including industrial carbon capture, low-carbon hydrogen production, negative emissions power, and power with carbon capture. These technologies are essential for the UK to meet its net zero targets; both regions would also benefit from an influx of green jobs, skills development and supply chain benefits.
- 2.1.3 The Applicant (as part of the Northern Endurance Partnership (NEP)) would be the carbon dioxide transportation and storage infrastructure provider for the ECC.
- 2.1.4 NEP is an independent joint venture (IJV) with shareholders made up from bp, Equinor and TotalEnergies and was formed to develop the carbon dioxide transportation and storage infrastructure to serve a diverse range of industries in the Teesside and Humber regions.
- 2.1.5 The Project is an important part of NEP's end-to-end carbon dioxide transportation and storage infrastructure network, which enables the ECC.
- 2.1.6 The objective of the Project is to deliver a new onshore pipeline network to transport captured carbon dioxide from industrial facilities in the Humber region to the coast near Easington. At this point, the Project interfaces with an offshore pipeline (to be consented separately) that would deliver the continuation of the carbon dioxide transportation pipeline to secure subsea storage. The offshore pipeline, infrastructure and storage are all subject to separate applications for consent / licence under the respective offshore oil and gas regulatory framework.
- 2.1.7 National Grid Ventures was previously part of NEP and promoted the Humber Low Carbon Pipelines (HLCP) project, which proposed developing hydrogen and carbon dioxide pipelines between Drax in North Yorkshire to the coast north of Easington in East Riding of Yorkshire, with associated Above Ground Installations (AGI). The HLCP project undertook EIA Scoping in April 2022 and Statutory Consultation in October 2022. The HLCP project is no longer progressing, and National Grid Ventures has since left NEP. The Project is different to HLCP, notably as only carbon dioxide would be transported, however there are some similarities in the route. The

Project has considered feedback that was previously received by National Grid Ventures during the consultations on the HLCP project. The Applicant is the promoter entity for NEP for the Project and is taking forward the HCCP Project.

2.2 The Project

- 2.2.1 The Project comprises an onshore underground pipeline with associated AGI and a Pump Facility. The pipeline will transport carbon dioxide from industry and power generation facilities with carbon capture in the Humber region (to be selected by UK Government as part of the CCS process) between the Drax area (in North Yorkshire) and Easington on the coast (within East Riding of Yorkshire), to connect with a secure offshore storage in the North Sea (with the offshore storage and associated transportation pipeline subject to separate consent).
- 2.2.2 The proposed pipeline (excluding connections to carbon capture projects) would be approximately 90km long. The current basis of design stipulates that the pipeline would have a nominal diameter of up to 660 mm (26"). Pipeline connections to individual carbon capture projects will be of varying diameters.
- 2.2.3 At the statutory consultation stage (December 2025), the Project fell within the administrative boundaries of the following local authorities:
- North Yorkshire Council
 - East Riding of Yorkshire Council
 - North Lincolnshire Council
 - North East Lincolnshire Council
- 2.2.4 Development Consent will be sought to authorise the following development (including where relevant development consent for Associated Development as per Subsection 2 of Section 115 of the Planning Act 2008):
- An underground onshore pipeline system to transport carbon dioxide from industrial and power sector carbon capture projects (to be selected by DESNZ through their cluster sequencing programme) in the Humber area.
 - A pipeline crossing beneath the Humber Estuary and River Trent;
 - A number of AGIs with the following types proposed:
 - Inlet AGI – would serve as the connection point from the Carbon Capture Projects to the pipeline. These facilities would contain equipment for remote monitoring of the pipeline system and would also contain equipment to launch / receive a Pipeline Inspection Gauge (PIG) which is used to internally clean, gauge and inspect the pipeline.
 - Junction AGI – would connect a spur line to the main pipeline. These facilities would contain equipment to launch / receive a PIG for inspection of the spur

line. Some Junction AGI's would also contain the necessary equipment to launch / receive a PIG on the main pipeline.

- Block Valve Stations AGI – would allow the isolation and monitoring of the pipeline. These would include buried pipeline valves and a small section of above ground pipework. In addition, a Block Valve Station would include an electrical and instrumentation unit.
- A Pump Facility north of Easington in the East Riding of Yorkshire. The Pump Facility would be located near to the proposed landfall point – where the onshore and offshore pipeline consents would interact; and
- Other ancillary works.

2.2.5 The Project will require crossings of a number of features including roads, railways and watercourses (including 11 designated Main Rivers and a single crossing of the River Humber (Main River) and a single crossing of the River Trent (Main River) at a point where the rivers are tidal).

2.2.6 The Project will connect to an offshore carbon dioxide transportation pipeline and infrastructure that would deliver the continuation of the carbon dioxide transportation pipeline to secure subsea storage - the offshore pipeline, infrastructure and subsea storage elements are all subject to separate applications for consent / licence under the respective offshore oil and gas regulations. At the eastern extent north of Easington, the draft Order Limits extend as far as the Mean Low Water Springs. The separate application for the offshore pipeline and infrastructure would extend up to the Mean High Water Springs, to provide an 'overlap' with the Project's draft Order Limits at this location. This area would serve as the interface between the Project and the offshore carbon dioxide transportation pipeline and infrastructure.

2.2.7 Noting the crossings of the tidal areas of the Rivers Humber and Trent as well as the potential works below Mean High Water Springs at the eastern extent north of Easington, a Marine Licence will be required from the Marine Management Organisation (MMO). If required a provision will be included within the application for Development Consent, deeming a marine licence to have been issued under Part 4 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009.

2.2.8 In addition to applying for a deemed Marine Licence, among other necessary consents and approvals, the Applicant will obtain relevant lease agreement(s) from the Crown Estate.

2.3 Planning Act 2008

- 2.3.1 The Project is defined as an NSIP under Section 14(1)(g) and Section 21(1) of the Planning Act 2008). The Project is therefore an NSIP requiring an application to be made for development consent.

3 Pre-Application Service from the Planning Inspectorate

- 3.1.1 For the Project the Applicant requested the **Tier 2 Standard** pre-application service tier and this was accepted by PINS.
- 3.1.2 Tier 2 was considered commensurate with the Projects scale, the breathe of powers assumed to be being sought as part of the DCO and the level of pre-application service required rom PINS. Due to the large scale of the Project, and as extensive compulsory acquisition may be needed, the Applicant did not consider Tier 1 (Basic) to be an appropriate Tier.

4 Pre-Application Programme

4.1.1 Table 1 provides an overview of key current programme dates with all rows highlighted in grey having been completed. Any changes to these dates will be communicated to PINS and captured within updates to this Programme Document.

Table 1 – Key Programme Tasks and Milestones

Timescale	Key Deliverables / Actions
Q2 2024 - complete	Introductory engagement with Host Authorities, PINS and other stakeholders. Then ongoing through DCO development.
Q2 2024 – ongoing	Host Authorities Quarterly Update calls implemented
Q3 2024 – complete	Baseline survey and data collection to inform EIA process
Q3 2024 - complete	Non-Statutory Consultation ran from the 9 July to 20 August 2024 – further details of the outcomes of this non-statutory consultation were provided to PINS in the Project Update Meeting – 14 November 2024
Q4 2024 - complete	Further engagement with PINS along with further updates to Host Authorities (including to discuss PPAs) and statutory consultees.
Q1 2025 - complete	Submit Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Scoping Opinion request to PINS
Q1 2025 to Q3/4 2026 – ongoing	EIA Surveys including ecology (including habitat and arboriculture surveys, bats, birds, otter, fish, reptile, badgers, water vole), site walkovers (landscape, water and shoreline) and archaeology
Q1 2025 - complete	Receipt of EIA Scoping Opinion
Q1 2025 - complete	Preparation of Statement of Community Consultation
Q1 2025 - complete	Statement of Community Consultation shared with Host Authorities for comment. 28 days have been programmed for feedback.

Timescale	Key Deliverables / Actions
Q2 2025 - complete	Review of feedback on Statement of Community Consultation
Q4 2025 – complete	Statutory Consultation 29 October to 17 December 2025 ⁴
Q1 2026 – ongoing	Review of Statutory Consultation feedback and design refinement / development
Q2 2026 – ongoing	Survey and drafting of information to inform Habitats Regulations Assessment report
Q2 2026 – ongoing	Land Referencing updates and issue of Land Option Agreements
Q2 2026 – ongoing	Development of Protective Provisions with statutory undertakers and engagement on Deemed Marine Licence with MMO
Q3 2026 (July) - complete	Tranche 1 draft DCO documents (standard tier service). Draft documentation have been provided to PINS for review as follows: • Draft sample Works Plans and Land Plans; • Draft Planning Statement • Draft Design Approach Document; Six weeks has been programmed for feedback.
Q3 2026 (mid) - complete	Targeted consultation on design changes – 23rd June to 26 July 2026
Q3 2026 (late)	Tranche 2 draft DCO documents (standard tier service). Draft documentation will be provided to PINS for review, to potentially include:

⁴The Planning and Infrastructure Act 2025 (Commencement No. 4 and Transitional Provisions) Regulations 2026 - Prior to a DCO application being submitted, an applicant was prior to 24 July 2026 required to consult with those living in the vicinity of the land proposed for development (under what was Section 47 of the Planning Act 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 Planning Act 2008). Pre-application consultation was until 24 July 2026 a key requirement of the Planning Act 2008. Following that date new guidance issued by the government makes clear that the form and adequacy of consultation undertaken by an applicant for an NSIP is neither a statutory consideration in determining whether an application should be accepted for Examination, nor a consideration in the assessment of a DCO. However, best practice in the guidance issued by the government on 3 July 2026 still recommends consultation is undertaken which is proportionate to the scale and nature of the proposed development and timed to enable meaningful feedback. References to Non-Statutory and Statutory Consultation in this version (V.7) of the Programme Document have been retained for reference only.

Timescale	Key Deliverables / Actions
	• Draft of DCO; • Draft DCO Explanatory Memorandum; • Draft engagement summary noting updates to the Planning Act 2008⁵ including section 42 consultee list; • Draft EIA project description chapter(s);
Q3 2026 (late)	Noting the Adequacy of Consultation Milestone is no longer required ⁶ , the Project aims to engage and agree with the relevant LPA that the Statement of Community Consultation commitments have been met - Anticipated September 2026
Q1 2027	DCO Submission Anticipated February 2027. DCO Acceptance
Q2 2027	Completion of Pre-Examination Period
Q1 2028	Examination Complete
Q2 2028	Recommendation to Secretary of State
Q3 2028	Secretary of State Decision
Q4 2028	Post decision phase and project mobilisation including discharge of relevant DCO Requirements and securing of all required secondary consents (ecology, environmental permits etc.)

⁵ The Planning and Infrastructure Act 2025 (Commencement No. 4 and Transitional Provisions) Regulations 2026

⁶ The Planning and Infrastructure Act 2025 (Commencement No. 4 and Transitional Provisions) Regulations 2026

4.2 PINS Meeting Programme

- 4.2.1 Table 2 provides an overview of proposed engagement with PINS. Future dates for meetings are yet to be agreed. Any changes will be communicated and agreed with PINS and captured within this 'Live' Programme Document.
- 4.2.2 Proposed requirements for further meetings such as PINS attendance at Evidence Plan Meetings are still in development and will be communicated and agreed with PINS and captured within this 'Live' Programme Document.

Table 2 – PINS Meeting Programme

Date	PINS Meeting
18 April 2024 – complete	Project Inception Meeting
14 November 2024 – complete	Project Update Meeting
12 May 2025 – complete	Post-Scoping and approach to PEIR meeting
11 September 2025 – complete	Update on programme, PEIR, land negotiations, Section 51 advice and preparation for section 42 Statutory Consultation in October 2025
3 February 2026– complete	Post-section 42 consultation meeting
22 April 2026	Draft documents approach meeting
4 August 2026	Project Update Meeting
20 October 2026	Project Update Meeting and draft documents feedback meeting
Late December/Early January 2027 - date to be agreed	Pre-Submission Meeting

5 Main Issues for Resolution and How to Address Them

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 The Project completed the then statutory consultation stage in December 2025. The design presented incorporated the feedback on the detail presented on the Project at the then non-statutory consultation stage (August 2024), as well as changes stemming from further design development and engagement with stakeholders. The design will continue to be refined and any feedback received in line with the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process. Accordingly, details pertaining to the main issues for resolution with consultees, local authorities and other interested parties are still emerging. Following analysis of feedback, these will be updated in future iterations of this Programme Document.
- 5.1.2 Table 3 below captures the emerging main high level themes and issues arising from the non-statutory consultation and ongoing engagement.

Table 3 – Emerging Issues for Resolution

Issue	Description of Issue	Activities to be undertaken to Resolve Issue
1	Concern from local communities about the impact of construction traffic.	The Applicant is looking at a range of options for how traffic impacts can be best reduced and managed. A detailed traffic study has been commissioned to look at a range of alternative options for construction traffic access and to consider the suitability of local roads. At PEIR stage the draft Order Limits retain flexibility for various options. The Applicant will be engaging further with Highways England, the relevant Councils and Parish Councils.
2	Concern around disruption to communities and properties	The draft Order Limits seek to avoid properties and communities and pass largely through agricultural land. The ongoing iterative design process will continue to consider interactions and avoid / mitigate where possible.
3	Interaction with existing and proposed utilities along the proposed route	Identification of these locations and potential works along with early engagement with statutory undertakers on draft Protective Provisions.
4	Impact on agricultural land and landholdings	The Project team is working closely with landowners to understand implications and consider mitigation.
5	Concern that works may impact drainage or cause flooding	The Applicant is undertaking a detailed land drainage study and will look carefully at how to reduce and minimise the impacts on drainage and of flooding.
6	Potential for interaction with buried archaeology	The Applicant is undertaking an ongoing programme of archaeological investigations to gather information to inform the design and consideration of mitigation.
7	Water supply for HDD crossings	A water supply strategy is being developed to consider options.

6 Engaging with Statutory Bodies

6.1.1 In addition to engagement with the host authorities, the Project is proactively engaging with the statutory environmental bodies (Natural England, Historic England, the Environment Agency and the Marine Management Organisation). As the Project moves forward engagement will also extend to other organisations such as Internal Drainage Boards, National Highways, Network Rail, utility companies, and local interest groups such as the local Wildlife Trusts. Where appropriate, these organisations may also be invited to thematic groups meetings alongside LPA representatives. At this stage, we cannot say which statutory bodies we expect will produce pre-application principal areas of disagreement summary statements. We are not presently aware of any issues raised by statutory bodies that will not be able to be resolved before the submission of the application but engagement and the evolution of the design will allow for further discussions in this regard.

7 Engaging with Local Authorities

7.1.1 At the statutory consultation stage (December 2025), the Project fell within the administrative boundaries of the following local authorities:

- North Yorkshire Council;
- East Riding of Yorkshire Council;
- North Lincolnshire Council; and
- North East Lincolnshire Council.

7.1.2 The Project is actively engaging the local authorities. Discussions are now starting to focus on specific technical issues such as heritage and traffic. The Project is in the latter stages of agreeing Planning Performance Agreements (PPA) with a view to entering into these where required.

7.1.3 Going forward the Project team aims to engage proactively throughout the pre-application stage with the host authorities via:

- Regular meetings with planning case officers;
- Technical meetings, as required with technical specialists across a range of EIA disciplines to discuss EIA approach, survey requirements and assessment methodologies;
- Thematic workshops (multi authority / cross boundary where required) to seek agreement on key issues such as heritage or landscape;
- Facilitation of inputs to and review of the draft Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC);
- Facilitation of inputs to and review of the draft DCO and associated requirements; and
- Discussions regarding the potential use of Section 106 agreements.

7.1.4 This engagement will take place on an ongoing basis but with a particular focus around:

- Pre-EIA scoping stage (already taken place at the date of this document);
 - Post-EIA scoping opinion (already taken place at the date of this document);
 - Pre-Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) (already taken place at the date of this document);
 - Post-PEIR; and
- Submission of DCO application accompanied with Environmental Statement

7.1.5 At this stage, we cannot say which local authorities we expect will produce pre-application principal areas of disagreement summary statements.

7.1.6 We [have entered into / anticipate entering into] planning performance agreements with the following local authorities:

- North Yorkshire Council;
- East Riding of Yorkshire Council;
- North Lincolnshire Council; and
- North East Lincolnshire Council.

8 Pre-Application Risks and How these will be Tracked and Managed

- 8.1.1 The Guidance asks that the Programme Document identifies risks to achievement of the pre-application stage and the process by which these risks are tracked and managed.
- 8.1.2 Table 4 below captures emerging themes and risks and outlines how these will be tracked and managed.

Table 4 – Emerging Pre-Application Risks

Risk	Description of Risk	Tracking and Managing Risk
Land Access	Accessing land for surveys in a timely manner	Dalcour McLaren have been appointed to act as the Land Agent for the Project. All interactions with landowners are logged and recorded.
Resourcing	Lack of sufficient resource / capacity within stakeholder organisations to engage in detail	The level of support and engagement each host authority or stakeholder organisations can provide will be monitored. Advisory agreements are already in place with some organisations and PPAs are currently being negotiated with host authorities.
Connected projects / emitters	The Project is awaiting further guidance from the Department of Energy Security and Net Zero on the connections the pipeline is required to provide to carbon capture projects.	The Applicant is seeking to maintain a dialogue so that any changes are understood quickly.
Protective Provisions	Length of time to undertake detailed discussions and in principle agreement prior to submission of the DCO	Identification of interactions already underway via the design process. Initial meetings held with further detailed consideration to follow.
Crown Estate lease agreements	Length of time to undertake detailed discussions and in principle agreement on any lease prior to submission of the DCO	Early engagement through Applicant's land agents has begun

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