

Humber Low Carbon Pipelines project

Consultation Strategy

Non-statutory consultation - Autumn 2021



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1. Introduction

National Grid Ventures has developed a strategy for consultation on its proposals for the Humber Low Carbon Pipelines project.

Our proposals are to create an onshore network of underground pipelines for the Humber region to transport captured carbon dioxide and hydrogen. The pipelines are intended to connect to major emitters in the Humber region, such as [Drax](#), the new power station at [Keadby](#), [British Steel](#) in Scunthorpe, [Uniper](#)'s Killingholme site near Immingham and Equinor's proposals for hydrogen production at [Saltend](#). The pipelines will continue to a landfall point on the Holderness coast.

In this document we have outlined our approach to the consultation process. It provides an overview of the consultation activities we will be undertaking with communities potentially affected by the proposals.

It sets out how people can get involved, learn about the proposals and provide their feedback. It also explains how we will use their feedback to influence the development of the project.

To ensure the consultation has been planned to meet the needs of those affected by the proposals, we are engaging with the relevant local authorities whose boundaries would be crossed by the project. We are seeking their advice so that their knowledge of the local area and communities can influence our plans for consultation.

The first stage of consultation, which will be held on a non-statutory basis, will run for approximately five weeks from 20 September to 22 October 2021.

2. Our role and the Humber Low Carbon Pipelines project

About National Grid Ventures

National Grid Ventures is part of National Grid group, one of the largest investor-owned energy companies in the world. Operating outside National Grid's core regulated businesses, it develops, operates and invests in energy projects, and in technologies and partnerships to accelerate the development of our clean energy future.

About the project

National Grid Ventures is bringing forward plans to enable a major new network of pipelines in the Humber region to support the UK's transition to a low carbon economy. The project would involve the construction of separate pipelines to transport carbon dioxide and hydrogen, supporting the decarbonisation agenda.

About Zero Carbon Humber

Our Humber Low Carbon Pipelines project forms the backbone of the [Zero Carbon Humber](#) vision to become the UK's first net-zero carbon cluster by 2040.

Our proposed project aims to deliver a new onshore network of pipelines to transport captured carbon dioxide emissions from the region's emitters for safe storage, and enable industries to fuel-switch from fossil fuels to low carbon hydrogen.

Route to consent

In England, the construction of new pipelines is classed as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) if they meet particular criteria regarding pipeline length and geographical location.

This project falls into this category and will therefore be a NSIP.

Such NSIPs must follow the consenting process set out in the Planning Act 2008. This requires prospective applicants to consult with the public and other groups and have regard to their feedback ahead of submitting an application for development consent.

We are proposing a three-stage approach to consultation. The first stage will be a non-statutory consultation in autumn 2021 on potential route corridors for the project. Two further rounds of consultation are scheduled to take place in 2022, including a statutory consultation under the Planning Act 2008 on detailed project route proposals.

The approach to consultation has been informed by reference to relevant government guidance around consultation.

Together these consultations will give communities and stakeholders the opportunity to comment on our proposals from an early stage in their development and influence how they are developed.

Following consultation, we will make an application for a development consent order (DCO) to the Planning Inspectorate, the government agency responsible for operating the planning process for NSIP proposals, to obtain the necessary approvals to construct and operate the pipelines. For more information on this process, please visit:

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/application-process/the-process/>

3. About the Project

The Humber Low Carbon Pipelines project includes a number of different elements that will enable the transportation of hydrogen and carbon dioxide.

Briefly, the project comprises:

- Onshore underground pipelines, transporting carbon dioxide and hydrogen separately;
- Above Ground Installations (AGIs) at certain points along the route; inclusive of Block Valves, to maintain pressure, PIG Traps for maintenance purposes and a Compressor Station at the coast, where the carbon dioxide will be transported offshore to a saline aquifer store;
- Connection points to the emitters in the region;
- A tunnel crossing of the River Humber.

Please note these proposals cover onshore only infrastructure. Plans for offshore infrastructure will be progressed through a separate consenting process with the Marine Management Organisation and other regulators as appropriate.

We have developed broad route corridor options (roughly one kilometre wide) within which the underground pipelines and associated infrastructure would be located. In some areas we have more than one potential route corridor option. At this stage, the route corridors options being consulted on broadly follow a route from Drax Power Station, heading in a south easterly direction past Scunthorpe and then in a north easterly direction, crossing the Humber near Immingham, then on to Saltend and to a landfall point on the Holderness Coast.

At this stage, the route corridor options run through several local authority areas including:

- North Yorkshire County
- Lincolnshire County
- East Riding of Yorkshire
- Selby District
- North Lincolnshire
- West Lindsey

Benefits and impacts of the proposals

The new pipelines will introduce a number of benefits for the country and the region. They will play a critical part in helping to decarbonise the Humber region and supporting the UK's drive to net zero by 2050. This is expected to protect existing jobs and create new ones in the Humber

region, while supporting skills, apprenticeships and educational opportunities. The technologies and skills developed could also contribute to the UK's wider net zero ambitions.

The plans will be developed through a considered process of corridor and route selection, design, technical investigations, surveys and consultation. This will include considering route corridor options in the first instance, before narrowing down towards a final detailed route, informed by public consultation and feedback we receive, which will form the basis of our application for development consent. Through this iterative process, we will consider ways to manage impacts through design and mitigation.

Environmental Impact Assessment

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) will be carried out for the project prior to submission of the application for development consent.

The EIA will identify and assess the potential environmental impacts arising from the scheme on factors such as landscape and visual amenity, ecology and wildlife, water and air quality, drainage and flood risk, archaeology and cultural heritage and noise and vibration. This process will help inform the design of the scheme, so as to avoid or reduce adverse environmental impacts wherever possible, and identify mitigation measures for any residual effects that remain.

The EIA will be submitted as part of the development consent order (DCO) application. We will also publish preliminary environmental information at the point of our statutory consultation. This preliminary information will enable consultees to develop an informed view of the likely significant environmental effects of the project.

What we are currently doing

During spring and summer 2021 we have been carrying out briefings to key stakeholders such as local authorities and regional organisations, to introduce the project and seek early opinions. These briefings are ongoing.

We have also been seeking feedback from local authorities on our proposed approach to consultation in relation to the project.

4. Our approach to public consultation

Overview

In this area more than 80 per cent of people live in urban areas with a population of more than 10,000. The overall employment rate is around 75 per cent and the region contains a relatively high proportion of people living with multiple indices of deprivation. The region also has an above average proportion of people with a long-term illness or disability.

According to the House of Commons library, broadband speeds compare positively to the national averages.

The most recent available statistics on ethnicity show that approximately 89 per cent of the population is white. Asian or Asian British people comprise 7.3 per cent, with 1.5 per cent of people identifying as black British.

National Grid Ventures is committed to delivering projects that are as inclusive as possible and place equality, diversity and inclusion at the heart of its business planning and decision-making.

Our consultation activities will be planned to be equal, accessible, diverse and inclusive to ensure we engage with as wide a demographic as possible.

We will do this through a variety of means that focus on raising wide awareness of and providing easy access to our consultation, with easy-to-understand information. To provide broad reach and accessibility for all of those living and working in the area we will focus on a digital consultation, with a significant proportion of activities delivered online. Online activities will be optimised to support access from mobile devices such as phone and tablet, as well as desktop devices.

A digital first approach provides the flexibility needed to meet different working patterns and has the potential to engage with a wider range of audiences. This approach is also in line with the latest guidance from the Planning Inspectorate, updated in response to the Coronavirus pandemic and guidance from government. It provides good opportunities to ensure activities are suitable to those with disabilities or who have health and mobility difficulties.

As the region and country emerge from the pandemic, a digital first approach also helps safeguard the consultation and ensures people can continue to participate, even in the event of future COVID-19 outbreaks, guidance or rules.

Subject to Covid restrictions, we intend to undertake in-person events at future consultation stages. These will be considered where appropriate, as informed by Local Planning Authorities and potentially others.

Purpose of the consultation

The purpose of this non-statutory consultation on corridor options will be to:

1. Introduce the pipeline network ambition and technology to the region;
2. Obtain feedback on the route corridor options presented as a result of initial optioneering;
3. Provide information on the interface of onshore/offshore pipelines as well as the full chain capture, transport and store process.

It will enable interested parties to view information on the draft proposals and to provide comments on the route corridor options, which will then feed into the ongoing design and development of the project. It will facilitate greater understanding of the transition to be made from initial route corridors at the first stage of non-statutory consultation, to further detail (at a second stage of non-statutory consultation) and then a defined route (statutory consultation).

What we are consulting on

We will be specifically consulting on the route corridor options. We are inviting feedback on route corridors and any issues we should consider in developing the route.

We also welcome comments on:

- Any other matter relating to the project
- Other factors people think are relevant

When we are consulting

The consultation is scheduled to run from Monday 20 September 2021 to Friday 22 October 2021.

Where we will consult

The project would take in a wide geographical area from inland near Selby to coastal areas on the Holderness coast. Towns and cities that may be interested and affected by the project and have an interest in how it is developed include Scunthorpe; Immingham and Hull, as well as many villages in north Lincolnshire, West Lindsey, East Riding and the Humber region.

We have identified a consultation zone that includes this wider area in which our consultation activities will be focused.

Who we will consult

- **Local communities and elected representatives**

Households and businesses in the consultation zone we define, as set out above, and their elected representatives (including MPs, councillors and parish councils).

- **Seldom heard groups**

Representatives of people considered seldom heard. This could 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 we will seek to identify interested parties to include in future engagement.

- **Special and local interest groups**

Special interest groups, such as wildlife trusts, professional bodies, campaign groups, and organisations who may be interested in our proposals because of their area of knowledge or specialism (for example, local historical societies, conservation groups or charities).

- **Landowners**

We will carry out land referencing in respect of corridors identified through the optioneering process. Where we have, as a result of our land referencing work, been able to identify those with an interest in land within those corridors, we will also consult those landowners in relation to our proposals.

- **Statutory consultees**

Although the consultation on corridor options will be undertaken on a non-statutory basis, we will nevertheless consult with prescribed and other statutory consultees for the purposes of the Planning Act 2008 and regulations made under that Act¹. This includes bodies such as local planning authorities, statutory undertakers, government agencies and nature conservation bodies. As this will be the first of three stages of consultation, we have taken a proportionate approach to statutory consultees by notifying those with a likely interest in this stage of the project. All will be notified at the subsequent statutory consultation.

¹ [Schedule 1 of the Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure Regs 2009 \(as amended\)](#).

5. How we will consult

To encourage participation in the consultation and to provide people with information, we will undertake a range of activities.

A digital first approach

Our approach is to use digital materials in the first instance. People will be encouraged to view and obtain project information and provide feedback online. The project website address will be included in all consultation and promotional materials.

Consultation materials

A variety of materials will be created, examples of which are listed below. Collectively these will publicise the consultation and provide varying levels of detail about the proposals so people can choose the information relevant to them. Materials will be written and produced so they are easy to understand and make good use of images and diagrams to explain our work.

Consultation material	Detail – planned
Project website	<p>The project website will be a key and primary tool for the consultation and the main way to gather information and provide feedback. It will hold all consultation materials, technical documents and any videos produced.</p> <p>To help people in providing feedback about their specific location and key issues, we are intending to use an interactive digital tool called <i>ConsultOnline</i>. This will be accessed via the project website.</p>
Project brochure	Non-technical information brochure providing information on specific topics such as routeing, above ground infrastructure, construction, the planning process, and approach to the environment.
Route corridor maps	Route corridor maps to provide an overview of the different route corridor options
Webinars	Live Q&As on the project and consultation, available through the project website.
Technical document	A route options report will be published to explain how the route options have been developed.

Deposit locations

In addition to materials being available on the website and on request, consultation materials will be deposited at suitable venues (such as local libraries) along the route for anyone wishing to access them.

Public and other meetings

Consultation will primarily take place via digital means.

We will consider attending meetings when invited by community groups, business and interest groups to discuss the project. These meetings can be requested by contacting us via e-mail, post or telephone. We will engage with representatives of the meetings to understand the requirements and to ensure they are held in the spirit of open and effective consultation, and in a COVID-safe way.

Enquiries and information

National Grid Ventures will provide a dedicated contact team for the duration of the consultation. A freephone number will be available. Section 6 of this document also describes how people will be able to provide feedback in response to the consultation.

Requests for documentation

Consultation materials will be available to download from the project website.

The technical materials produced to support the consultation will also be available on our website, and people will be encouraged to refer to such materials in the first instance.

On request, the project will provide hard copies of consultation materials for a reasonable fee.

We will consider requests for alternative document formats (for example, translations, large print or Braille) to enable all members of the public to view and comment on the consultation documents where it is reasonably practical to do so.

Publicising the consultation

The consultation will be publicised using a range of tools to reach as wide an audience as possible to encourage awareness and participation. The publicity will be based around key milestones, including consultation launch and feedback deadlines.

Measures will include notifications via post to local addresses, adverts in local newspapers and press releases to local / regional newspapers.

6. How people will be able to take part in the consultation and how we will use their feedback

How people will be able to provide feedback

Individuals will be able to complete a response and/or provide separate comments through one of the following response channels. Each of the response channels will be free to use.

All responses would need to be received by the stated consultation deadline. Only under exceptional circumstances would we accept responses submitted after that date.

Method	Details – planned
Interactive website	Fill in and submit the response online via the project website, which will include functionality to drop a pin on a map with feedback. This will be accessed via: www.nationalgrid.com/humberpipelines
Freepost	Post the consultation form or comments to the consultation freepost address, FREEPOST HLCP NATIONAL GRID.
E-mail	E-mail comments or a completed response form to HumberLowCarbon@nationalgrid.com

Although reasonable efforts will be made, National Grid Ventures cannot guarantee that responses submitted through methods other than those set out in the table above would be included in our analysis and reporting.

How we will use feedback

All responses received to the methods listed above will be collated and analysed. Petitions received will also be recorded and the number of signatories noted. The analysis process will help to feed comments, concerns and recommendations through to the ongoing design development and assessment.

Data privacy

National Grid Ventures is committed to protecting the personal information we are given. We manage personal information in accordance with all applicable data protection laws, including the General Data Protection Regulations which came into effect in 2018.

For more information, see our project website at www.nationalgrid.com/humberpipelines. National Grid's full data privacy statement can be found here: [Company Privacy Policy | National Grid Group](#).

Feedback report

All responses received during the public consultation will be recorded and analysed. This will have an important role to play in shaping the future development of our proposals.

We'll summarise our findings in a public feedback report which will explain our analysis and how it has influenced our proposals. The feedback report would be published at a future date and will be available on the project website.

How to find out more

For more information visit our project website where you can also sign up for future updates. The website address is: <https://www.nationalgrid.com/humberpipelines>.

If you have any queries about this project, please contact the project team directly by calling 0800 860 6255 or emailing HumberLowCarbon@nationalgrid.com.

Ends