



## Meeting note

<b>Project name</b>	<b>Connah's Quay Low Carbon Power (CQLCP) Project</b>
<b>File reference</b>	<b>EN010166</b>
<b>Status</b>	<b>FINAL</b>
<b>Author</b>	<b>The Planning Inspectorate</b>
<b>Date</b>	<b>13 December 2023</b>
<b>Meeting with</b>	<b>Uniper</b>
<b>Venue</b>	<b>Microsoft Teams</b>
<b>Meeting objectives</b>	<b>Inception Meeting</b>
<b>Circulation</b>	All attendees/ additional contacts to share meeting note

### 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, or until a formal scoping request had been submitted (if requested by an Applicant for commercial reasons).

### Introduction to the project

The Applicant gave an overview of the Connah's Quay Low Carbon Power (CQLCP) Project and provided details of the Proposed Development. The CQLCP Project is proposed to be situated in the Deeside region of North Wales, to provide flexible power generation that can ramp up and down in a low carbon manner. The Project is considered a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) under sections 15(1) and 3(a) of the Planning Act 2008 (PA2008) as the project involves the potential construction of an onshore generating station (in Wales) with a capacity of more than 350 megawatts (MW).

The CQLCP Project is an approximately 1.1 gigawatts (GW) power station fitted with carbon capture. The Project would be executed in two phases, the first phase comprising an approximately 550 MW unit that could capture up to 1.9 metric tonnes (Mt) of Carbon Dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) per year by 2030. The second phase would then expand to circa 1.1 GW. The Applicant explained that the Project's proposed location is in proximity to CO<sub>2</sub> storage and transport infrastructure via the proposed HyNet CO<sub>2</sub> pipeline.

The Applicant proposes to repurpose existing preserved pipelines and maintain some infrastructure from existing assets including a 1.4GW gas-fired power station. A National Grid sub-station is in close proximity to the site, presenting options for connecting to this sub-station, subject to further works.

The Applicant advised that there may be a need for a Marine Licence from Natural Resources Wales, and for compulsory acquisition rights over land.

The Inspectorate asked the Applicant what percentage of emissions would be captured by the Project; the Applicant confirmed that the Project would seek to capture approximately 95% of emissions. The Inspectorate asked whether the River Dee would be used for transportation of materials to the site and was advised by the Applicant that the initial intention is for road transportation to be used for materials to the site, subject to ongoing assessments.

## **Scoping**

The Applicant presented a map including a red line boundary for the project based on a 'worst case scenario' to include all elements at the scoping stage. The main site covers the existing gas-fired power station, gas treatment plant and two existing above ground installations (AGIs). As part of assumptions for the site the existing gas treatment plant and the store facilities on site will be demolished. The demolition could be separate to, or included within, the DCO. The Applicant showed existing access points and indicated that they would continue to be used for access.

The Applicant is undertaking site walk-over surveys for ecology and has identified some potential areas for biodiversity enhancement. The Applicant intends to seek a Scoping Opinion to inform the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and presented a list of assessments likely to be referred to in the scoping report including Air Quality, Water Environment and Flood Risk, and Cumulative and Combined Effects.

One key environmental consideration presented by the Applicant is flood risk. The site had previously been a salting (an area of low ground regularly inundated with salt water). In the 1950s this land had been raised by one metre by pumping sand from the river to raise land height. The Applicant explained that the area is within flood zone three and therefore a flood risk area. This area may need to be similarly raised by one metre. Other assessments are ongoing, including traffic surveys.

The Applicant showed a further map that outlined areas adjacent to the Dee Estuary that are covered by a number of statutory designations including, Special Protection Area (SPA), Special Area of Conservation (SAC), Ramsar and Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

The Applicant will be giving consideration to air quality emissions regarding amine and N-amines, ammonia (NH<sub>3</sub>) and stack height.

Cooling water infrastructure requires assessment and will be included within marine topics as part of the Scoping Report.

## **Engagement and indicative timeline**

The Applicant outlined their engagement plan and gave an indicative timeline for the Project:

1. **Pre-launch** – with a view to build understanding and communicate potential benefits scheduled for early January 2024.
2. **Public launch** – to build awareness and open lines of communication.
3. **Scoping request** – February 2024
4. **Non-statutory consultation** – to share proposals with a wide range of stakeholders and pre-engagement with Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) in February / March 2024.
5. **Ongoing engagement** – ongoing communication and consideration of feedback
6. **Statutory Consultation (s42, s47 and s48)** – develop Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) and consult with LPAs. Anticipated for June/July 2024.
7. **Post consultation feedback** – analyse and consider feedback, prepare consultation report, and establish a feedback loop with stakeholders and communities.
8. **DCO application submission** – November 2024
9. **DCO decision** – late Quarter 1 (Q1) 2026
10. **Commercial operation** – 2030

The Inspectorate enquired as to whether the Applicant had considered producing key materials in Welsh and whether there are Welsh speakers on their team to engage with communities. The Applicant confirmed that they will be producing bilingual materials and that Welsh speakers from the Applicant's team will be present at consultation events.

The Inspectorate asked the Applicant what the drivers behind this timeline are. The Applicant confirmed it is the goal of being commercially operational by 2030.

## **Advice**

Regarding the anticipated request for a Scoping Opinion, the Inspectorate advised the Applicant to pay close attention to their project description and ensure that technical information is contained within it and highlight how the Applicant has addressed key points.

The Inspectorate noted a potential overlap in timing of the non-statutory consultation and the Inspectorate's scoping consultation. The Inspectorate advised the Applicant to consider avoiding any consultation overlaps, if possible, to ensure that there is no confusion for parties responding to the appropriate consultation.

The Inspectorate advised the Applicant to look at other projects in Welsh waters, which are listed on the Planning Inspectorate's (PINs) National Infrastructure Planning [website](#), regarding approaches to Marine Licensing. Further, the Inspectorate advised the Applicant of the importance in engaging with National Resource Wales (NRW) at the earliest opportunity.

The Inspectorate advised the Applicant to carry out a trial run of any file sharing site before the submission of the EIA Scoping Opinion request, to ensure that it is shared in a way PINs can access.