



## Meeting note

<b>Project name</b>	Connah's Quay Low Carbon Power Project
<b>File reference</b>	EN010166
<b>Status</b>	Final
<b>Author</b>	The Planning Inspectorate
<b>Date</b>	03 July 2024
<b>Meeting with</b>	Uniper UK Limited (the Applicant)
<b>Venue</b>	Microsoft Teams
<b>Meeting objectives</b>	Project Update Meeting
<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.

### Design/scheme changes update

The Applicant stated that the design/scheme has been updated to incorporate inclusion of land to facilitate Abnormal Indivisible Load (AIL) route from ports, including Connah's Quay North Port (north-east of Power Station), Port of Mostyn (north of Power Station along the River Dee) and Ellesmere Port (Manchester Ship Canal). The Applicant explained that the land at these ports and the road access from them is to facilitate the transportation of materials and equipment to the main site. The Applicant added that no actual permanent works are proposed within the ports or along the AIL route from Connah's Quay North or Ellesmere Port to the Main Site, and that only minor temporary works are required (e.g. tree works, road sign removal) along parts of the route.

The Applicant also updated the Inspectorate on the repurposed CO<sub>2</sub> corridor. The Applicant confirmed that the corridor was included in the red line boundary (RLB) present within the EIA scoping, but this was on the basis of no works being required to it. The corridor has been retained in the Preliminary Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) but further assessment work is underway to establish if any works are required, which will be established before submitting the Environmental Statement with the Development Consent Order (DCO) application. The Applicant notified the Inspectorate that no works or rights are required for the natural gas corridor, so it has been removed from the RLB.

The Inspectorate highlighted that the Infrastructure Planning (Miscellaneous Provisions) Regulations 2024 came into force on 30 April 2024 and amended the list of bodies an applicant needs to consult, as set out in Schedule 1 of the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009, as well as scope of the

'relevance test' applied. The Applicant was advised to check the position with regard to the regulations and the transitional provisions ahead of the statutory consultation for the Proposed Development.

The Inspectorate advised that the Applicant would need to consider if the changes to the RLB would necessitate seeking a new Scoping Opinion. The Applicant responded that they would consult with their legal advisors but do not anticipate that the changes, which include adding the AILs route to enable minor temporary works along this route, would materially alter the proposed approach in the EIA for the Proposed Development or its likely significant environmental effects.

### **Key consultation dates & activities**

The Applicant stated that non-statutory consultation took place from 26 February to 25 March 2024, and that the development of the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) is underway with local authorities, who they are currently awaiting feedback from. The Applicant stated that statutory consultation is due to run from September 2024, and will involve issuing a newsletter in advance, followed by s42 letters, publication of a s48 notice and carrying out the s47 community consultation as set out in the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC).

The Inspectorate asked the Applicant whether there were any new host authorities added to the consultation as a result of the recent changes to the Proposed Development. The Applicant responded that Cheshire West and Chester Council were a new host authority and had been included in the consultation on the draft SoCC.

The Inspectorate asked the Applicant to provide a summary of the non-statutory consultation earlier in the year. The Applicant responded that around 100 people participated both online and in person, mostly from within the local area. The Applicant added that issues largely focused on ecology impacts, but the nature of consultation included asking questions rather than making comments.

### **Update on overall programme/application submission date**

The Applicant stated that the DCO application will be submitted in Q1 2025.

The Inspectorate asked the Applicant whether it envisages submitting any draft documents for review. The Applicant stated that they may seek a review with the draft documents likely to be submitted in early Q1 2025 but will confirm in due course.

### **Pre-application service level/discussion on documents required under updated pre-application process:**

The Applicant notified the Inspectorate that it intends on requesting the Standard pre-application service level and that a response will be provided by the deadline (10 July 2024). The Applicant added that it would provide an initial Programme Document with its response.

The Applicant will prepare and maintain an Issues Tracker to feed into the Potential Main Issues for Examination document and also inform the Principal Areas of Disagreement Summary document.

The Applicant enquired if the Inspectorate could provide guidance on the form and content of the Policy Compliance Document and a Design Approach Document mentioned in the new pre-application advice, noting that they are not a mandatory require for the Standard pre-application service level.

The Inspectorate advised that the Applicant may wish to visit the project webpage for Five Estuaries to look at an example of a Policy Compliance Document, and the project webpage for Outer Dowsing to look at an example of a Design Approach Document. The Inspectorate noted that these projects have not yet proceeded through examination and therefore cannot comment on the quality of these documents.

The Inspectorate confirmed that the Policy Compliance Document and the Design Approach Document are key elements of the enhanced service of the updated pre-application process but are not mandatory for the standard service level tier.

### **Other Matters**

The Applicant notified the Inspectorate that engagement with Flintshire County Council (FCC) regarding the Planning Performance Agreement is ongoing, and that Net Zero Industry Wales are now engaging with FCC regarding resourcing.

The Inspectorate asked the Applicant whether there had been any engagement with Natural Resources Wales to date. The Applicant responded that a Discretionary Advice Service agreement is in place and engagement is ongoing on key topics including marine environment and permitting; further engagement on terrestrial ecology and flood risk is planned.

### **AOB**

The Inspectorate and the Applicant agreed to hold the next meeting after the close of the statutory consultation period.