

WELSH LANGUAGE STATEMENT

HyNet Carbon Dioxide Pipeline DCO

Planning Act 2008

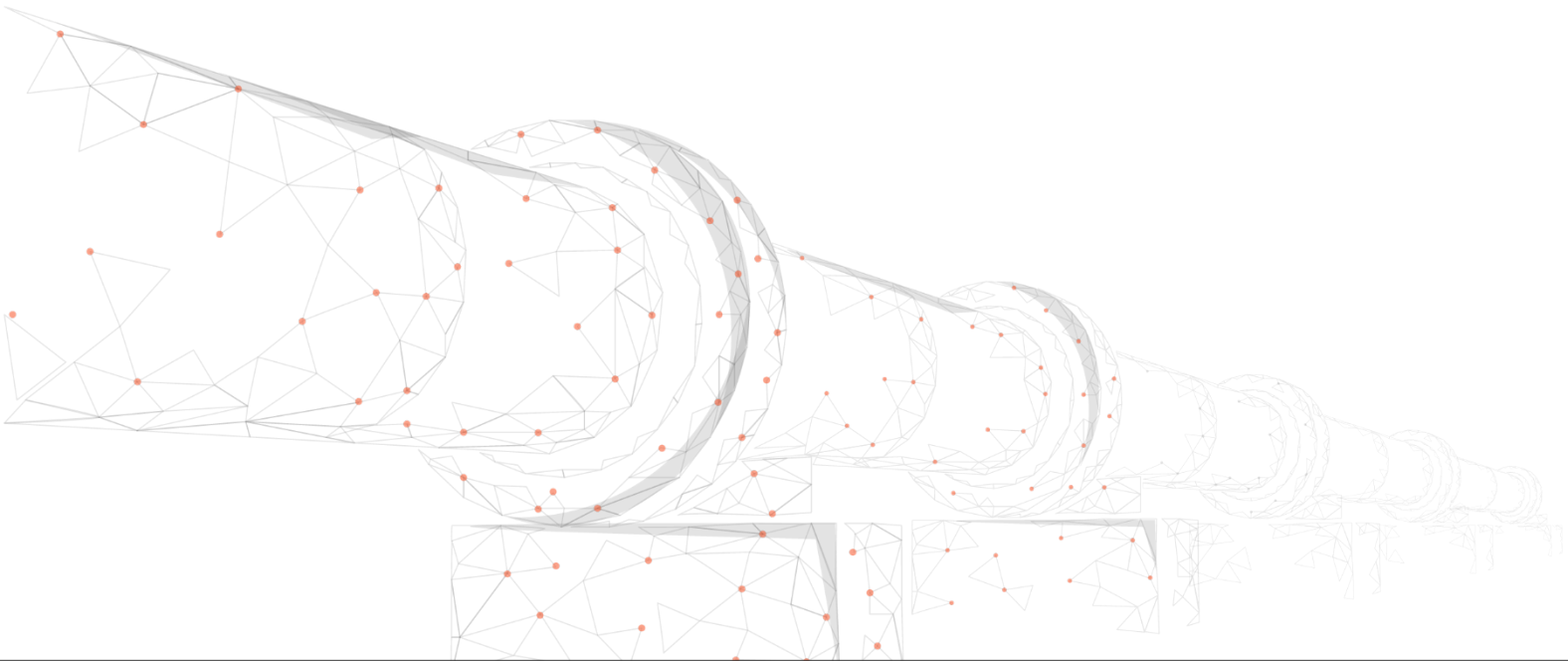
The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 –
Regulations 5(2)(q)

Document Reference Number D.5.6

Applicant: Liverpool Bay CCS Limited

Inspectorate Reference: EN070007

English Version



REVISION: A

DATE: September 2022

DOCUMENT OWNER: WSP UK Limited

PUBLIC

QUALITY CONTROL

Issue/Revision	First Issue	Revision 1	Revision 2	Revision 3
Document Reference	D.5.6			
Revision	A			
Author Name and Sign	HD			
Approver Name and Sign	NC			
Document Owner	WSP			

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Statement has been prepared to describe the engagement and measures taken by the Applicant during the consultation on the HyNet Carbon Dioxide Pipeline DCO.

The measures undertaken during consultation include providing all statutory consultation documents in Welsh apart from the full Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR). The translated materials included the consultation brochure, Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) and Non-Technical Summary of the PEIR.

For examination, the Applicant will provide key notices and certificates in Welsh as well as providing simultaneous translation for the Preliminary Meeting, all Examination hearings and Accompanied Site Inspections and translation to Welsh of procedural decisions and other examining authority notifications. The Flintshire County Council (FCC) area has a lower than average proportion of the population who speak Welsh, but there are wards in the area where people speaking Welsh are more prominent.

The National and Local policy frameworks look to create a thriving Welsh language and the Welsh Government has set a goal for one million Welsh speakers by 2050.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. GENERAL OVERVIEW

- 1.1.1. This Welsh Language Statement ('this Statement') has been prepared on behalf of Liverpool Bay CCS Limited (the 'Applicant') to support a Development Consent Order (DCO) application for the HyNet Carbon Dioxide Pipeline ('the DCO Proposed Development').
- 1.1.2. This Statement provides a background on the demographics of the pipeline area as it pertains to Welsh speakers, outlines relevant National/local planning policies, and details the measures/engagement which were undertaken to enable participation in Welsh during the pre-application phase.
- 1.1.3. This Statement also sets out the measures proposed by the Applicant to support participation in Welsh in the examination phase, including which documents the Applicant proposes to provide in Welsh.

1.2. THE DCO PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

- 1.2.1. The Applicant intends to build and operate a new underground carbon dioxide (CO₂) pipeline from Cheshire, England to Flintshire, Wales with necessary Above Ground Installations (AGI's) and Block Valve Stations (BVSs) (the 'DCO Proposed Development').
- 1.2.2. The DCO Proposed Development is a critical component of HyNet which, by facilitating the transportation of carbon, enables the rest of the project to be low carbon. The hydrogen production and CO₂ capture and storage elements of the Project do not form part of the DCO Proposed Development and will be delivered under separate consenting processes.
- 1.2.3. The DCO Application will seek consent for the construction, operation and maintenance of the following components which are part of the DCO Proposed Development, namely:
- **Ince Above Ground Installation (AGI) to Stanlow AGI Pipeline** – a section of new underground onshore pipeline (20" in diameter) to transport CO₂;
 - **Stanlow AGI to Flint AGI Pipeline** – a section of new underground onshore pipeline (36" in diameter) to transport CO₂;
 - **Flint AGI to Flint Connection Pipeline** – a section of new underground onshore pipeline (24" in diameter) to transport CO₂;
 - **Flint Connection to Point of Ayr (PoA) Terminal Pipeline** – a section of existing Connah's Quay to PoA underground onshore pipeline (24" in diameter) which currently transports natural gas but would be repurposed and reused to transport CO₂;

- **Four AGIs** - Ince AGI, Stanlow AGI, Northop Hall AGI, and Flint AGI.
- **Six Block Valve Stations (BVSs)** - located along:
 - The new Stanlow AGI to Flint AGI Pipeline (three in total);
 - the existing Flint Connection to PoA Terminal Pipeline (three in total);
- Other above ground infrastructure, including Cathodic Protection (CP) transformer rectifier cabinets and pipeline marker posts;
- Utility Connection infrastructure, including power utilities and Fibre Optic Cable (FOC); and
- Temporary ancillary works integral to the construction of the CO₂ Pipeline, including Construction Compounds and temporary access tracks.

1.2.4. A full description of the DCO Proposed Development is detailed in Chapter 3 of ES (**Document reference D.6.2.3**).

2. BACKGROUND

2.1. GENERAL OVERVIEW

2.1.1. This section will provide an overview of the demographics in the Flintshire County Council (FCC) area in regard to Welsh speakers.

2.2. FLINTSHIRE DEMOGRAPHICS

2.2.1. The percentage of the population in Flintshire who can speak Welsh (13.2%) is lower than that of the Wales average (20.8%) (Flintshire County Council, 2015).

2.2.2. Despite this, there are several wards in Flintshire in which a larger percentage of the population speak Welsh, and these include: Mold South (30.6%), Gwaenysgor (26.2%), Treuddyn (24.4%), Ffynnongroyw (22.9%), Whitford (20.7%) and Caerwys (20.3%) (Flintshire County Council, 2015).

2.2.3. The pipeline crosses in proximity to Ffynnongroyw and Whitford wards.

3. NATIONAL & LOCAL PLANNING POLICY/GUIDANCE

3.1. GENERAL OVERVIEW

- 3.1.1. This section outlines the national and local policies relevant to the protection and enhancement of the Welsh language and the responsibility that developments have.

NATIONAL POLICY

Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011

- 3.1.2. This is a measure of the then Welsh Assembly (now Senedd) which modernised the legal framework in relation to the delivery of public services and the use of the Welsh language.
- 3.1.3. The measure established the office of the Welsh Language Commissioner, whose *“principal aim is to promote and facilitate the use of the Welsh language”* (Welsh Government, 2021).

Planning (Wales) Act 2015

- 3.1.4. This Act passed by the then Welsh Assembly (now Senedd) makes provision for the Welsh language to be considered during the creation of local development plans and in decision-making (Planning (Wales) Act , 2015)

The Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015

- 3.1.5. This Act has the aim to *“improve our environment, our economy, our society and our culture”*. To meet this aim, there are seven well-being goals for Wales, one of which is: *“a Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language”* (Welsh Government, 2022).
- 3.1.6. This Act puts the responsibility on the listed public bodies to work to achieve all the well-being goals. These public bodies include the Welsh Ministers, Natural Resources Wales and Local Authorities (Welsh Government, 2021). The Applicant also considers that Secretary of State in making a planning decision partly within in Wales will have regard to the objectives of this Act as an important and relevant consideration.

Technical Advice Note (TAN) 20: Planning and the Welsh Language (October 2017)

- 3.1.7. This TAN provides *“guidance on how the Welsh language may be given appropriate consideration in the planning system”* and states that the *“Welsh language is part of the social and cultural fabric of Wales”*.
- 3.1.8. This TAN discusses the consideration of the Welsh language during local development plan production and decision-making (Welsh Government, 2017).

Planning Policy Wales – Edition 11 (February 2021)

- 3.1.9. This document provides the land use planning policies of the Welsh Government and works towards the delivery of the aims of key legislation including the Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015 and Planning (Wales) Act 2015.
- 3.1.10. This document states that the Welsh language *“is part of the social and cultural fabric and its future well-being will depend upon a wide range of factors, particularly education, demographic change, community activities and a sound economic base to maintain thriving sustainable communities and places”* (Welsh Government, 2021).

Future Wales: The National Plan 2040 (February 2021)

- 3.1.11. This document is produced by the Welsh Government and is a strategy for addressing key national priorities through the planning system. This document sets ‘The Future Wales Outcomes’ which include *“A Wales where people live in places with a thriving Welsh Language”*.

NATIONAL GUIDANCE

Cymraeg 2050: Welsh Language Strategy - A million Welsh speakers (July 2017)

- 3.1.12. This strategy was produced by the Welsh Government pursuant to Section 78 of the Government of Wales Act 2006 and sets out the Welsh Government’s long-term approach to achieving the target of a million Welsh speakers by 2050 (Welsh Government, 2017).

LOCAL POLICY

Welsh Language Topic Paper No 17 – Summary (February 2015)

- 3.1.13. As part of developing the FCC’s local development plan, a Topic Paper (No. 17) on the Welsh language was produced, which stated 13.2% of Flintshire’s population speak Welsh; however, this is higher in some wards (Flintshire County Council, 2015).

Deposit Local Development Plan (September 2019)

- 3.1.14. The deposit local development plan was submitted for examination to the Welsh Government and the Planning Inspectorate (now known as PEDW) in October 2020.
- 3.1.15. The deposit plan recognised Flintshire’s relatively small but strong and distinctive Welsh speaking community which *“manifests itself through the demand for Welsh language education, a wide variety of Welsh language or bilingual community groups and events throughout the year from the Cadi Ha Springtime Festival in May to the Taith y Fari Llwyd in December and many more in between”* (Flintshire County Council, 2019).

- 3.1.16. Policy STR4: Principles of Sustainable Development, Design and Placemaking of the deposit LDP states that *“development should ensure that it supports and sustains the long term well being of the Welsh language”* (Flintshire County Council, 2019).

4. APPLICANT'S ENGAGEMENT WITH WELSH SPEAKERS

4.1. GENERAL OVERVIEW

- 4.1.1. This section will describe the consultation and measures which have been undertaken by the Applicant to enable Welsh speakers to engage with the consultation process.
- 4.1.2. The Applicant did not receive any requests for Welsh language materials during statutory consultation in February – March 2022 or any of the targeted consultations in June, July and August 2022. However, to ensure that Welsh language speakers were able to be included in the consultation process, a number of measures were undertaken as outlined in **section 4.2.**

4.2. MEASURES TAKEN

- 4.2.1. The Applicant provided all statutory consultation documents in Welsh, apart from the full Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR). This included the following materials:
- Consultation Brochure;
 - Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC); and
 - Non-Technical Summary of the PEIR.
- 4.2.2. The Applicant also ensured that these consultation materials were available in Welsh at all face-to-face events and also provided feedback forms in Welsh. Newspaper notices advertising the consultation events were also published in Welsh.
- 4.2.3. In addition to physical versions at face-to-face events, Welsh language consultation materials were provided on the consultation website: HyNet Hub.
- 4.2.4. Furthermore, a Welsh language speaker was available throughout all face-to-face events in Wales.
- 4.2.5. A copy of the Welsh language consultation documents can be provided on request.

5. PROVISION IN THE APPLICATION AND EXAMINATION

APPLICATION

- 5.1.1. As part of the Application, the Non-Technical Summary of the Environmental Statement has been provided as part of the Application in Welsh (**Document reference D.6.1A**).

EXAMINATION

- 5.1.2. For examination, the Applicant will provide key notices and certificates in Welsh as well as providing simultaneous translation for the Preliminary Meeting, all Examination hearings and Accompanied Site Inspections and translation to Welsh of procedural decisions and other examining authority notifications.
- 5.1.3. The Applicant will continue to welcome contact with it in Welsh and communications in Welsh will be treated equally to those in English.
- 5.1.4. Despite not receiving any requests for materials in Welsh so far, the Applicant will provide translation for the Preliminary Meeting and all examination hearings where requested by the Planning Inspectorate. Translation of materials and engagement in Welsh during examination may also be provided, where this is deemed appropriate.

6. CONCLUSION

- 6.1.1. To conclude, despite the Flintshire area having a lower-than-average proportion of the population who speak Welsh, there are some wards where Welsh is more prominent. The pipeline crosses in proximity to Ffynnongroyw and Whitford wards.
- 6.1.2. The national and local policy frameworks look to sustain and grow the amount of people speaking Welsh – including the target of one-million Welsh speakers by 2050. They also seek to meet the goal of “*a Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language*” which is set out in The Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015.
- 6.1.3. This Statement has detailed the measures taken by the Applicant to make consultation material and events accessible during consultation for Welsh readers/speakers.
- 6.1.4. During Examination, the Applicant will provide translation of events and materials as requested/as appropriate.

Annexures

Annex A

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REFERENCES

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