

DRAFT STATEMENT OF COMMON GROUND WITH NATURAL RESOURCES WALES

HyNet Carbon Dioxide Pipeline DCO

Planning Act 2008

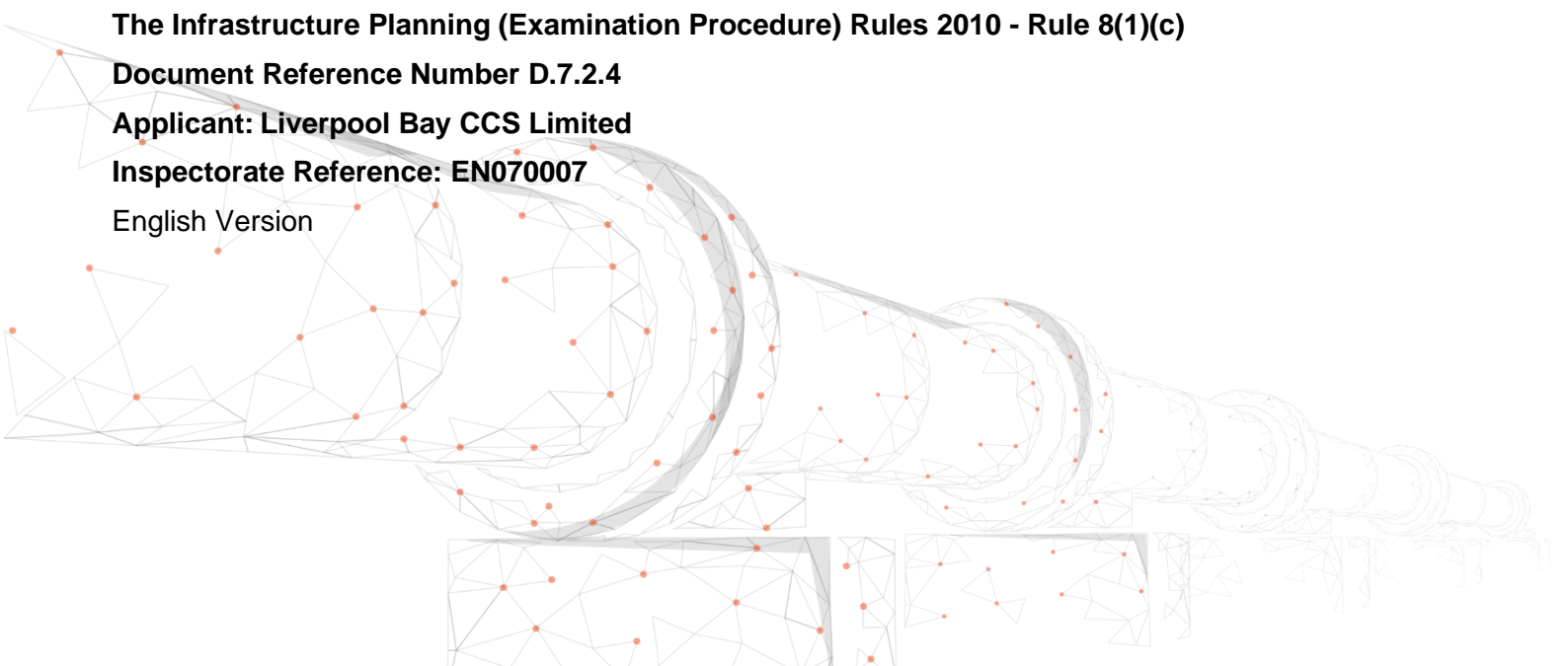
The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 - Rule 8(1)(c)

Document Reference Number D.7.2.4

Applicant: Liverpool Bay CCS Limited

Inspectorate Reference: EN070007

English Version



REVISION: A

DATE: April 2023

DOCUMENT OWNER: WSP UK Ltd

PUBLIC

QUALITY CONTROL

Document Reference	D.7.2.4				
Document Owner	WSP				
Revision	Date	Comments	Author	Check	Approver
A	April 2023	Deadline 1 updates	CP	AV	AH

DRAFT

STATEMENT OF COMMON GROUND

This Statement of Common Ground has been prepared and agreed by (1) Liverpool Bay CCS Limited and (2) Natural Resources Wales

Signed

[NAME]

[POSITION]

on behalf of Liverpool Bay CCS Limited

Date: **[DATE]**

Signed

[NAME]

[POSITION]

on behalf of Natural Resources Wales

Date: **[DATE]**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. INTRODUCTION.....	4
1.1. Purpose of this document.....	4
1.2. The DCO Proposed Development.....	4
1.3. Terminology	5
2. RECORD OF ENGAGEMENT	6
3. ISSUES.....	19

TABLES

Table 2-1 – Record of Engagement in relation to the DCO Proposed Development	7
Table 3-1 Engagement, ES and Other Application documents	20
Table 3-2 Issues related to the DCO Proposed Development - Landscape and Visual	21
Table 3-3 Issues related to the Proposed Development – Ecology	22
Table 3-4 Issues related to the DCO Proposed Development – Drainage and Flood Risk	25
Table 3-5 Issues related to the DCO Proposed Development – Groundwater	27
Table 3-6 Issues related to the DCO Proposed Development - WFD Compliance	28
Table 3-7- Issues related to the DCO Proposed Development – Draft DCO (including requirements to the draft DCO	30

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

- 1.1.1. This draft Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) has been prepared by Liverpool Bay CCS Limited (the Applicant) and Natural Resources Wales (NRW).
- 1.1.2. For the purpose of this draft SoCG, the Applicant and NRW will be referred to as the 'Parties'.
- 1.1.3. The purpose of this draft SoCG is to set out the agreement that has been reached between the Parties in respect of a number of matters related to the Development Consent Order (DCO) Proposed Development. It also lists any points on which discussions are ongoing or where the Parties have concluded agreement cannot be reached. SoCGs are an established means in the DCO planning process of allowing all Parties to identify and so focus on specific issues that may need to be addressed during the examination.
- 1.1.4. **Chapter 2** of this draft SoCG records the consultation undertaken with NRW by the Applicant. **Chapter 3** of this draft SoCG sets out the areas of agreement in relation to the above matters, and any areas of ongoing discussion between the Parties.

1.2. THE DCO PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

- 1.2.1. HyNet (the Project) is an innovative low carbon hydrogen and carbon capture, transport and storage project that will unlock a low carbon economy for the North West of England and North Wales and put the region at the forefront of the UK's drive to Net-Zero. The detail of the project and the DCO Proposed Development can be found in the main DCO documentation. The DCO Proposed Development and this SoCG relate to the onshore CO₂ pipeline element of HyNet only. Other elements of HyNet are subject to separate consenting processes and are not addressed here.
- 1.2.2. The DCO Proposed Development impacts NRW primarily as a statutory environmental body with land interests.
- 1.2.3. *The Applicant has identified the following plots in which NRW hold an interest:*
12-21, 13-01, 13-02, 13-03, 13-04, 13-05, 13-06, 13-07, 13-08, 13-10, 13-11, 13-12, 13-13, 13-17, 13-19, 14-04, 14-05, 14-06, 14-07, 14-08, 14-09, 14-10, 14-12, 14-13, 14-15, 14-16, 14-18, 14-19, 14-20, 14-26, 15-03, 16-01, 16-06, 16-14, 16-16, 16-17
- 1.2.4. A full description of the DCO Proposed Development is detailed in Chapter 3 of the Environmental Statement (ES) [APP-055].

1.3. TERMINOLOGY

- 1.3.1. In the Issues tables in **Chapter 3** of this draft SoCG, 'Agreed' and 'Not Agreed' indicates a final position, and 'Under Discussion' indicates where these points will be the subject of on-going discussion wherever possible to resolve or refine, the extent of disagreement between the Parties.

DRAFT

2. RECORD OF ENGAGEMENT

- 2.1.1. This chapter provides a summary of the engagement undertaken to date between the Parties in relation to the DCO Proposed Development.

DRAFT

Table 2-1 – Record of Engagement in relation to the DCO Proposed Development

Date	Form of Correspondence	Key Topics Discussed and Key Outcomes
03/02/2021	Microsoft Teams meeting with NRW and the Applicant	<p>Key Topics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity survey approach • Subsequent meetings <p>Discussions and Outcomes</p> <p>The proposed survey approaches and methodologies for surveying aquatic and terrestrial receptors (for example, fish, birds, bats) were presented for discussion and/or comment.</p> <p>Subsequent meetings were proposed to specifically discuss survey approaches for Great Crested Newt (GCN) and bats, primarily the assessment of commuting/foraging routes associated with hedgerows. Additionally, separate meetings were agreed to discuss Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) considerations.</p> <p>The approach to bird surveys, both wintering and breeding was discussed with follow-up discussions to be held pending survey results.</p>
23/02/2021	Microsoft Teams meeting with NRW and the Applicant	<p>Key Topics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detailed biodiversity survey approach • Potential for draft survey approach and methodology for bats and hedgerows <p>Discussions and Outcomes</p> <p>A meeting was held to discuss detailed survey approach and methodology for GCN and bats, in response to the meeting held on 3 February 2021.</p> <p>Topics discussed related to Habitat Suitability Index (HSI) scoring, the survey extents, survey techniques (for example, use of eDNA) and the use of the rapid risk assessment tool. Utilisation of District Level Licensing (DLL) for GCN was tabled for use, along with potential mitigation options.</p> <p>A draft survey approach and methodology for bats and hedgerows was presented, discussed and provided to each organisation for comment following the meeting.</p>
26/05/2021	Microsoft Teams meeting with NRW and the Applicant	<p>Key Topics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed survey approach for bats and hedgerows. • Further details on the static detector sampling strategy. <p>Discussions and Outcomes</p> <p>A meeting was held to discuss the proposed survey approach and methodology for bats and hedgerows, in response to the meeting on 23 February 2021. Mitigation options, including use of artificial hedgerows; sensitive timings for works; Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) for critical hedgerows; standard shrub sizes and providing additional roosting opportunities were discussed.</p>

Date	Form of Correspondence	Key Topics Discussed and Key Outcomes
		Further details on the static detector sampling strategy were provided and concerns raised were discussed further. The use of aerial tree climbing inspections as an alternative supplementary approach to dusk emergence/dawn re-entry surveys was also agreed for trees.
18/06/2021	Microsoft Teams meeting with NRW and the Applicant	<p>Key Topics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amended survey methodology for bats and hedgerows. <p>Discussions and Outcomes</p> <p>The amended survey methodology and approach for bats, particularly in respect of hedgerow severance, was presented and discussed. This included the use of static detectors to enable a comparison between good and excellent hedgerows, and not to determine the foraging / commuting use of hedgerows by bats.</p> <p>NRW agreed to provide both NRW examples and guidance in relation to presenting an assessment of conservation status.</p>
19/11/2021	Microsoft Teams meeting with NRW and the Applicant	<p>Key Topics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessment of the aquatic receptors associated with the River Dee. <p>Discussions and Outcomes</p> <p>The meeting sought to discuss and seek opinion on the approach to survey and assessment of aquatic receptors associated with the River Dee. Two potential options were presented. Potential mitigation measures were also tabled.</p> <p>A number of concerns were raised by NRW and Flintshire County Council (FCC) including: the presence of otter along the River Dee; timing of drilling in regard to fish movement; appropriate licences for survey work such as sediment grabs; potential maintenance requirements; impacts associated with blowouts/frac outs from HDD; and decommissioning. These concerns were addressed by the Applicant during the meeting including confirmation that appropriate licences would be applied for. The Applicant noted that the DCO application would detail methodology and mitigation in relation to the concerns raised.</p> <p>Following the meeting, NRW provided their written response, recommending the 'Survey Approach' methodology be taken forward, in relation to the River Dee surveys.</p>
09/12/2021 – 17/12/2022	Email correspondence between the Applicant and NRW	<p>Key Topics</p> <p>Landscape and Visual – Proposed viewpoints for assessment: An email was issued on 9th December 2021 outlining the selection of proposed viewpoints along with a viewpoint location plan and baseline photography. The email also highlighted the viewpoints that had been removed from those set out at EIA Scoping stage as a result of design changes.</p> <p>The selection of viewpoints included those with views incorporating the Shropshire Union Canal and River Dee. It was suggested that up to six of the proposed viewpoints will be represented by photomontages.</p> <p>Discussions and Outcomes</p> <p>NRW responded on the 17/12/21. NRW re-iterated their stance from the EIA Scoping stage stating that “we consider that the scale of development and distance from the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) would avoid</p>

Date	Form of Correspondence	Key Topics Discussed and Key Outcomes
		<p>significant visual effects being experienced from within this Designated Landscape. However, we advised that the scope of the landscape and visual impact assessment and location of viewpoints are discussed with the relevant Local Planning Authority's Landscape Officer/representative. We therefore advise that you consult the relevant Local Planning Authorities regarding these proposed viewpoints, photomontages and baseline photographs".</p>
07/02/2022	Microsoft Teams meeting with NRW and the Applicant	<p>Key Topics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed survey approach regarding hydromorphology and aquatic ecology • Watercourses and Water Framework Directive (WFD) water bodies • Groundwater WFD water bodies • WFD screening and scoping methodology <p>Discussions and Outcomes</p> <p>Consideration to be given to small non-reportable water bodies as they form part of the WFD water body catchment. The DCO Proposed Development cannot hinder future restoration and the installation of the pipeline needs to allow capacity for watercourse restoration or for watercourses to naturally recover from modification. These principles should be used in the design of the DCO Proposed Development. The Applicant contacted the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) to discuss ordinary watercourses and potential restoration.</p> <p>It was discussed that Block Valve Stations(BVS) are not to be located near watercourses and drainage will be to ground – therefore no new outfalls are required. However, the drainage design has been amended since this meeting and the new approach (which requires new outfalls) has been agreed with NRW. During the operational phase, no net loss to biodiversity is the target and it has been assumed that there is no mitigation for the trenchless crossings due to recovery of any impacts within 2 years.</p> <p>Cycle 2 River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs) will need to be used but 2021 classification data should be used including a comparison to Cycle 2 data.</p>
24/02/2022	Email correspondence between the Applicant and NRW	<p>Key Topics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WFD screening and scoping methodology • WFD methodology • Flood risk at watercourse crossings <p>Discussions and Outcomes</p> <p>NRW provided clarification on the WFD screening process and conclusions. Additionally, NRW confirmed an approach to reaching an agreement regarding the WFD screening and scoping outcomes.</p> <p>NRW confirmed the requirement to include an assessment of WFD protected areas.</p> <p>Clarification from the Applicant that there will be one WFD compliance assessment undertaken for the DCO Proposed Development application covering both England and Wales.</p>

Date	Form of Correspondence	Key Topics Discussed and Key Outcomes
		Request from NRW for WFD screening out of Dee Carboniferous Coal Measures water body to be reconsidered. It was agreed that following further assessment this water body would be screened into the WFD compliance assessment.
07/03/2022	Email correspondence between the Applicant and NRW	<p>Key Topics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flood risk to the DCO Proposed Development <p>Discussions and Outcomes</p> <p>General response from NRW's first point of contact data distribution team. Recommendation for engagement with FCC as the determining Sustainable Drainage System Approval Body.</p> <p>Data distribution team provided links to all the freely available data on the NRW website.</p>
14/03/2022	Microsoft Teams meeting with NRW and the Applicant	<p>Key Topics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flood Consequences Assessment (FCA) for the DCO Proposed Development Wepre Brook Above Ground Installations (AGI) and BVS Sites Assessment Methodology Mitigation <p>Discussions and Outcomes</p> <p><i>Wepre Brook/Alltami Brook crossing</i></p> <p>NRW confirmed that a 600 mm freeboard of the 100 year plus climate change scenario is required and the model should be extended to cover the Wepre Brook/Alltami Brook above ground pipeline crossing. As this is an ordinary watercourse, the LLFA should be consulted. NRW would like to see, and possibly review, the hydraulic model due to the high profile nature of the DCO Proposed Development. The LLFA would also need to review this.</p> <p>NRW confirmed that it will be the LLFA to advise on any set criteria for how the pipeline or its foundations either side of the riverbank should be set and any erosion control or anti-scour measures required.</p> <p><i>General Requirements</i></p> <p>Open cut crossings on a main river will need a bespoke Flood Risk Activity Permit (FRAP). NRW states that the FRAP application would need to demonstrate, through a suitable method statement, that flood risk can be managed adequately during the construction phase when temporary works are in place. The River Dee crossing will require a marine licence.</p> <p>Whilst the Flood Consequences Assessment (FCA) only covers permanent works, the FCA needs to acknowledge the need for generic mitigation measures for managing flows during the construction phase as this would then need to be referred to further within the Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP).</p> <p>NRW raised concerns on the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) about the fact that some temporary compounds/construction areas are located within areas at flood risk/floodplains and also the need to ensure that ongoing access to their flood defence assets is maintained during the construction phase.</p>

Date	Form of Correspondence	Key Topics Discussed and Key Outcomes
		<p>The parties confirm it is acceptable to assume in the FCA that the risk to the buried pipeline from the various sources of flooding (e.g. tidal, fluvial, groundwater reservoir etc) would be negligible as long as sites within flood risk areas are acknowledged. It is acceptable to have one FCA to take account of the whole DCO Proposed Development.</p> <p>The parties confirm it is acceptable that the Surface Water Management and Drainage Strategy do not form part of the FCA report as long as reference is made to the Surface Water Management and Drainage Strategy in the FCA report. The FCA is not required to be written in both English and Welsh.</p>
17/03/2022	Email correspondence between NRW and the Applicant	<p>Key Topics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Phase 1 Land and Soils Baseline Report <p>Discussions and Outcomes</p> <p>NRW requested the Phase 1 Land and Soils Baseline Report during their review of the PEIR during the pre-application stage. However, considering its large size and the fact it wasn't available as a final draft until five days before the consultation deadline NRW were unable to provide comments and informed the Applicant about this.</p>
06/04/2022	Email correspondence between the Applicant and NRW	<p>Key Topics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Key aquatic receptors and potential invasive non-native aquatic species. <p>Discussions and Outcomes</p> <p>Comments provided by NRW with regards to the presence of notable fish species and invasive non-native species that have been recorded throughout the Newbuild Infrastructure Boundary.</p>
08/04/2022	Email correspondence between the Applicant and NRW	<p>Key Topics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flood risk to the DCO Proposed Development <p>Discussions and Outcomes</p> <p>Consultation with NRW Development Planning Advice Service to discuss local ground conditions along the pipeline route and whether the pipeline lies within any Critical Drainage Areas. NRW advised that the pipeline does not lie within a Critical Drainage Area and that further liaison with FCC would be needed to confirm local conditions.</p> <p>NRW Development Planning Advice Service advised that the DCO Proposed Development provide further consideration of the ground conditions along the proposed pipeline. Conditions along the route appear quite variable so some areas may require dewatering and others may not. Mitigation will be required in some areas.</p>
08/04/2022	Technical Response from the Applicant to NRW's Comments following the Teams Meeting held on 07/02/2022	<p>Key Topics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fisheries Carboniferous Limestone Groundwater Body WFD Compliance Assessment Dee Carboniferous Coal Measures water body <p>Discussions and Outcomes</p>

Date	Form of Correspondence	Key Topics Discussed and Key Outcomes
		<p>Regarding fisheries, based on the proposed crossing points (and methods) NRW is content that the relevant water bodies have been screened into the assessment.</p> <p>The impacts to the Clwyd Carboniferous Limestone Groundwater Body will not be assessed as the assessment of BVS (Screening of activities) has been screened out.</p> <p>The impact of the DCO Proposed Development on the delivery of identified mitigation measures and protected sites will be assessed in the WFD compliance assessment.</p> <p>The Dee Carboniferous Coal Measures water body will be screened into the WFD compliance assessment, which will form an appendix to the ES. This will consider the potential impacts to the Gronant Dunes and Talacre Warren Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).</p> <p>The methodology for the Dee Opportunity Catchment was discussed. NRW identified opportunities which will be considered within the WFD compliance assessment.</p> <p>There will be one WFD compliance assessment for the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (TCPA) application and one WFD compliance assessment for the DCO Application. The latter will cover England and Wales in the same report.</p>
25/05/2022	Microsoft Teams meeting between NRW and the Applicant	<p>Key Topics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Description of Alltami Brook, • Possible methodologies for crossing Alltami Brook • Mitigation measures for Alltami Brook • Other scheme design elements including Wepre Brook, Little Lead Brook and Broughton Brook. <p>Discussions and Outcomes</p> <p>Several options for the crossing of Alltami Brook were considered. These include: trenchless crossing methods using HDD, culverting the watercourse, creating a pipeline bridge and rerouting the pipeline to avoid the watercourse, or open trench crossing. The open trench method was selected as the optimal crossing type. NRW requested more detail about why other methods had been discounted, specifically the pipeline bridge option.</p> <p>NRW's view was that WFD mitigation measures should be appropriate for the whole life of any structures. In addition, NRW considered that 25 years (being the minimum design life of some elements) is a long enough time period for a potential future restoration project to the planform of the Alltami Brook to be implemented and therefore the DCO Proposed Development should not prevent restoration of the watercourse during the lifespan of the pipeline.</p> <p>NRW to discuss internally the approach to the management of scour and respond to the Applicant.</p> <p>NRW to discuss internally the suitability of the BNG metric for WFD mitigation.</p> <p>NRW would like to be informed why the Alltami Brook crossing point is now a trenched crossing type (rather than a pipeline bridge, as was previously considered as an option).</p>
28/06/2022	Email correspondence between NRW and the Applicant	<p>Key Topics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alltami Brook pipeline crossing

Date	Form of Correspondence	Key Topics Discussed and Key Outcomes
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WFD compliance assessment: Geomorphology, Fisheries, Geoscience, Biodiversity <p>Discussions and Outcomes</p> <p>NRW presented their position and asked for further clarity on each crossing option for the pipeline at Alltami Brook. Comments received from geomorphology, geoscience, biodiversity and fisheries officers included:</p> <p><u>Geomorphology</u></p> <p>NRW's OGN72 considers all irreversible bed modifications and reinforcement as high risk activities and this has prevented such activities in the past being permitted.</p> <p>The discounting of the option for HDD was not satisfactorily justified in the 25/05/2022 meeting.</p> <p>Further justification is requested for why the pipeline route cannot be relocated or bridged across the Alltami Brook. Maintenance responsibilities associated with the pipe bridge option are not considered a suitable reason to discount this option.</p> <p><u>Geoscience</u></p> <p>Further clarification requested on the completion of a Ground Investigation Report (GIR) and a comprehensive options appraisal. A GIR would provide useful information on the nature of the groundwater – surface water interaction at Alltami Brook.</p> <p>Potential risk of loss of drilling fluid to the groundwater and therefore to the brook should be considered with HDD. The use of drilling fluids may require the construction of temporary lagoons.</p> <p>Dewatering may be required for above-ground options. Connectivity between the point of dewatering and the brook should be assessed and include an assessment of local permeability and the influence that the local fracture system may have on the dewatering. Wetter periods of the year should be avoided for the works.</p> <p><u>Biodiversity</u></p> <p>There is an otter record on the Alltami Brook and potential impacts on this species should be assessed. The presence of a pond at The Chequers should be verified and potential impacts to GCN assessed if necessary. Habitats Directive Annex 1 Woodland is present upstream and downstream of the site and is a feature of Deeside and Buckley Newt Sites Special Area of Conservation. Potential impacts on this receptor should be considered.</p> <p><u>Fisheries</u></p> <p>Fisheries concur with the points raised for geomorphology.</p> <p>In-river works should be avoided where possible. The justification provided for discounting the pipe bridge options is not satisfactory.</p> <p>Eel and Brown Trout are present in the Alltami Brook so trenched crossings should consider associated habitat destruction and fish mortalities.</p>
07/07/2022	Microsoft Teams meeting with Natural England (NE), NRW and the Applicant	<p>Key Topics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update on ecological survey results and approach to mitigation. Approach for later submission of survey data <p>Discussions and Outcomes</p>

Date	Form of Correspondence	Key Topics Discussed and Key Outcomes
		Updates on ecological surveys and the proposal for further ecological surveys, alongside mitigation principles and approach were discussed and agreed upon. The Applicant will provide monthly updates to NRW regarding the proposal and mitigation and will re-engage with NRW to discuss BNG.
14/07/2022	Email correspondence between NRW and the Applicant	<p>Key Topics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide an update on the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) due to changes to the design outlined in the PEIR <p>Discussions and Outcomes</p> <p>NRW responded on 14/07/22 to confirm that they have considered the additional information and have no further comments to make regarding the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty; it was previously agreed that the AONB could be scoped out of the EIA due to the nature of the proposal and its distance from the AONB, and no significant changes were being proposed that would affect this view.</p> <p>NRW advised that the Applicant liaises with the relevant local planning authority regarding any local landscape and visual matters.</p>
19/07/2022	Microsoft Teams meeting with NRW and the Applicant	<p>Key Topics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss Alltami Brook and best method for crossing the watercourse <p>Discussions and Outcomes</p> <p>More detail was provided to NRW as to why the open cut crossing method has been selected for Alltami Brook. Explanation why HDD is not possible and the Applicant presented their safety concerns over a pipeline bridge method. The scale and impacts of the open cut crossing and auger bore crossing were presented.</p>
26/07/2022	Microsoft Teams meeting with NE, NRW and the Applicant	<p>Key Topics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approach for achieving BNG <p>Discussions and Outcomes</p> <p>The BNG approach and methodology was discussed, along with offsetting requirements. This included the sources of habitat data, and a tailored approach to the post development assessment. It was noted that the DCO Proposed Development application is seeking to offset loss of priority habitats on land within the same local authority boundary as it was lost from.</p> <p>NRW reiterated that the EIA and ES should consider paragraph 6.4.21 from the Planning Policy Wales step wise approach to maintain and enhance biodiversity. The Applicant confirmed that the BNG assessment contained a mitigation hierarchy.</p>
04/08/2022	Email correspondence between NRW and the Applicant	<p>Key Topics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • River Dee seasonal restrictions <p>Discussions and Outcomes</p>

Date	Form of Correspondence	Key Topics Discussed and Key Outcomes
		NRW provided advice on the seasonal restrictions for the proposed works associated with the crossing of the River Dee with regard to migratory fish species.
08/08/2022	Email correspondence between NRW and the Applicant	<p>Key Topics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alltami Brook pipeline crossing WFD compliance assessment: Geomorphology, Fisheries, Geoscience, Biodiversity <p>Discussions and Outcomes</p> <p>NRW presented their expert judgement and experience of the advantages and disadvantages of each crossing option for the crossing at Alltami Brook. Comments received from geomorphology, geoscience, biodiversity and fisheries officers. Three options were reviewed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open trench crossing where NRW identified one advantage and seven disadvantages (including; a risk of the river flow being irreparably lost to underground/mines, ensuing pollution downstream and the design would irreparably alter a natural feature); Auger boring, where NRW identified four advantages and three disadvantages (including; albeit low likelihood, any blowout would irreparably crater the river habitat), and Pipe bridge crossing where NRW identified five advantages and two disadvantages, (including tree and riparian clearance and the need to assess and accommodate potential flood risk).
08/09/2022	Email correspondence between NRW and the Applicant	<p>Key Topics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> EIA methodology used for assessing groundwater impacts <p>Discussions and Outcomes</p> <p>NRW provided advice on the proposed assessment methodology for groundwater described to them. They recommended that the assessment approach (DMRB LA 113) should be supplemented with other assessment ideas/analogues appropriate to the DCO Proposed Development. They also provided a series of bullet points outlining what they advised should be included in the groundwater assessment.</p>
21/09/2022	Microsoft Teams meeting with NRW and the Applicant	<p>Key Topics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alltami Brook WFD compliance and mitigation <p>Discussions and Outcomes</p> <p>The Applicant presented the conclusions of the WFD compliance assessment. The high level assessment recognises a permanent change to the watercourse, however impacts are not considered by the Applicant to have water body scale effect once mitigation measures have been implemented.</p> <p>Mitigation proposed included: a limit to the working width to 16m at bank top and 4m in channel; bespoke geomorphological assessment to inform detailed design and micro-siting of the crossing; gravel augmentation to offset the potential destruction in spawning habitat, reinstatement of riparian planting; and geomorphological and ecological monitoring of permanent works to identify potential failure and adaptive mitigation to prevent failure from occurring, to be detailed post DCO consent.</p>

Date	Form of Correspondence	Key Topics Discussed and Key Outcomes
		<p>NRW will review the information submitted with the DCO application and provide further comments. NRW repeated that detailed evidence and assessments on high risk sites/activities should be made available prior to DCO application to ensure compliance with the Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales) Regulations 2017 (“the WFD Regulations 2017”).</p>
17/11/2022	Microsoft Teams meeting with NE, NRW and the Applicant	<p>Key Topics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on ecology surveys and mitigation • Update on project design parameters to reflect design changes • Review survey requirements for 2023 <p>Discussions and Outcomes</p> <p>Hedgerow width removal has increased to a maximum of 15m, which is a change from the 10m previously identified. Trenchless crossing of the River Dee will now be at a minimum depth of 15m. Mitigation required to offset woodland, irreplaceable habitats and individual trees was detailed, along with the total amount of mitigation area that has currently been identified within Wales. Survey requirements for 2023 were discussed, and include bat dusk and dawn activity surveys, static monitoring surveys and crossing point surveys for hedgerows. The results of these surveys will feed into the Detailed Design Stage to validate the findings of and specific mitigation prescriptions in the ES.</p>
07/12/2022	Microsoft Teams meeting with NRW and the Applicant	<p>Key Topics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First draft of the Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) <p>Discussion and Outcomes</p> <p>NRW to submit relevant representations by the 13th of January and review the first draft of the SoCG by the 20th of January. Key matters were discussed regarding landscape, ecology, flood risk and drainage, groundwater and WFD compliance.</p>
02/02/2023	Microsoft Teams meeting with NRW and the Applicant	<p>Key Topics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Second draft of the SoCG • NRW Relevant Representation <p>Discussion and Outcomes</p> <p>General discussion regarding the layout of the second draft SOCG and elements that are still under discussion. NRW confirmed they have raised their relevant representation with key concerns flagged to continue discussions with the Applicant.</p> <p>Discussions on the hearing process and how the Examining Authority (ExA) will determine whether the information provided in the application is suitable or whether further information is needed.</p> <p>Discussion on land plots, NRW to check the Applicant has captured the correct information, protected species mitigation is to be considered with regards to land acquisition.</p>

Date	Form of Correspondence	Key Topics Discussed and Key Outcomes
		<p>NRW to provide the Applicant with an annotated GCN method statement template to accompany the EPS licence application.</p> <p>NRW advised the details in the FCA addendum was suitable and no further changes are required to the FCA, although further discussions are needed regarding operational concerns for maintenance access in relation to emergency flood risk responses and how the wider submission needs to address these concerns.</p> <p>NRW queried the level of GI incorporated for the groundwater assessment. The Applicant advised that further GI and monitoring may be implemented by the main contractor to inform the groundwater assessment but will be dependent on a number of factors, including weather conditions and plant availability.</p> <p>NRW believe there's currently insufficient baseline evidence to support the proposed engineering works at Alltami Brook to satisfy WFD assessment compliance, specifically regarding potential flow loss to groundwater and the impact on watercourses downstream, also that there are currently insufficient details as to why certain crossing options have been ruled out. The Applicant advised these details will be picked up and discussed at a separate meeting.</p>
06/03/2023	Microsoft Teams meeting with NRW, and the Applicant	<p>Key Topics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further data required at Alltami Brook <p>Discussion and Outcomes</p> <p>The Applicant discussed specific issues regarding to Relevant Representations raised by NRW relating to the Alltami Brook. A proposed methodology was presented by the Applicant to undertake a detailed geomorphological assessment of the Alltami Brook, which is a commitment in the Register of Environmental Actions and Commitments [AS-054]. NRW had raised an objection to this detailed assessment being deferred to detailed design in their Relevant Representations and therefore the Applicant proposed to bring forward this assessment to the Examination stage.</p> <p>NRW stated that the proposed geomorphological assessment would not address the groundwater and hydrogeological concerns and that ground investigation and borehole data is required. The Applicant explained that it has not been possible to obtain ground investigation and borehole data due to land access issues during the preparation of the DCO Application and current land access is for non-intrusive surveys only. NRW concluded that the geomorphological assessment is a good idea but needs to be informed by ground investigation. The Applicant reiterates that ground investigation is not feasible during Examination due to the land access issues.</p> <p>NRW would like to see an assessment of decommissioning of the pipeline. The Applicant explained that in line with industry practice, the pipeline would remain in situ to avoid significant environmental issues and disruption caused by the removal of a pipeline. In addition, pipelines may be re-purposed in the future. Should the pipeline be decommissioned, impacts would be the same or similar to the construction-phase impacts depending on the actual future baseline and future legislation, which is unpredictable.</p> <p>The Applicant discussed cumulative impacts on the Wepre Brook water body due to the open cut crossings and a new outfall. Whilst the crossing option on the Alltami Brook is subject to further discussion and potential assessment, the impacts upon the Wepre Brook due to the open cut crossing and new outfall would be construction phase only and therefore no long-term impacts to the Wepre Brook water body.</p>

Date	Form of Correspondence	Key Topics Discussed and Key Outcomes
		The Applicant outlined the rationale for the open cut crossing on the Alltami Brook.
09/03/2023	Microsoft Teams meeting with NRW and the Applicant	<p>Key Topics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting to discuss draft responses to NRW Relevant Representations and SoCG items <p>Discussion and Outcomes</p> <p>NRW commented on the need to consider securing surface interest to manage, or subsequently transfer management of mitigation woodland, post construction. The Applicant is to provide clarity to NRW on this matter during the Examination.</p> <p>The Applicant confirmed that draft protected species licenses are being prepared and will be provided to NRW for comment and discussion. NRW provided items and thoughts for the Applicant to consider during the preparation of the various draft licence documents. The Applicant and NRW additionally discussed the context and requirements of a 'GCN Conservation Plan' with the Applicant confirming that the provisions for the safeguarding of GCN during construction and management of habitats for GCN, where applicable, would be detailed. Additional SoCG items were able to be moved to 'Agreed' status.</p>
27/03/2023	Site visit to Alltami Brook with NRW and the Applicant	<p>The Applicant attended a site visit to the Alltami Brook with NRW representatives from Planning, Geomorphology, Hydrology and Groundwater. The Applicant described to NRW the options for the Alltami Brook crossing in the landscape and engineering context. An alternative encased pipe bridge option was presented to NRW.</p> <p>NRW requested an options appraisal assessment report so they may understand the option design and the decision-making to come to the preferred solution. NRW's Geomorphologist identified the preferred solutions in order of preference as an encased pipe bridge: bottomless-arched culvert, box culvert, with open cut crossing being the least favoured. NRW would also like to see decommissioning of any solution, including the above ground options, at the end of the design life of the pipeline.</p>

3. ISSUES

3.1.1. This chapter sets out the areas of agreement in relation to specific issues relating to the DCO Proposed Development, and any areas of ongoing discussion between the Parties. The topics discussed between the Applicant and NRW are as follows:

- Engagement, ES & Other Application Documents;
- Landscape and Visual;
- Ecology;
- Drainage and Flood Risk;
- Groundwater;
- WFD Compliance; and
- Issues related to the DCO Proposed Development - Draft DCO (including requirements to the draft DCO).

Table 3-1 Engagement, ES and Other Application documents

Ref.	Description of Matter	Current Position	Status
Engagement			
NRW 3.1.1	Engagement	<p>The Parties agree that engagement has been ongoing in the pre-application period (as set out in the record of engagement) and the Applicant has largely sought to bring forward a design which has had regard to NRW's views. However, NRW still has key outstanding concerns to ensure legislative compliance that have not been resolved prior to DCO submission.</p> <p>NRW has been formally consulted on the application as required by the Planning Act 2008 (PA2008).</p>	Agreed
ES			
NRW 3.1.2	ES	<p>The Parties agree that the study area as set out in the ES is appropriate.</p> <p>The Parties broadly agree that the following details of the ES are acceptable:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ES Baselines • Impact Assessment Methodologies • Mitigation • Cumulative Assessment • Conclusions <p>However, NRW have raised key concerns with the impact of the DCO Proposed Development upon Alltami Brook and access to their flood defence assets during the construction phase so these matters requires addressing prior to any consolidated agreement.</p>	Under Discussion
Other application documents			
NRW 3.1.3	Other application documents	<p>NRW DPAS have confirmed that they do not comment on land acquisition matters beyond their environmental remit and therefore are unable to agree to this matter currently. The Applicant will engage further with NRW's surveyor to ensure that its interests are correctly reflected in the Book of Reference [AS-023].</p>	Under Discussion

Table 3-2 Issues related to the DCO Proposed Development - Landscape and Visual

Ref.	Description of Matter	Current Position	Status
NRW 3.2.1	Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB	NRW agreed through their EIA Scoping Opinion response and subsequent consultation that the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB can be scoped out of LVIA due to the distance from and nature of the DCO Proposed Development.	Agreed
NRW 3.2.2	Updates to LVIA post PEIR design changes	NRW advised that the Applicant liaises with the relevant LPAs regarding local LVIA impacts.	Agreed
NRW 3.2.3	Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP)	NRW advised that the final LEMP should include revised details regarding long-term monitoring and management, with regards to biodiversity (protected species). The Applicant confirms that details regarding long-term monitoring and management will be provided at detailed design.	Agreed

Table 3-3 Issues related to the Proposed Development – Ecology

Ref.	Description of Matter	Current Position	Status
NRW 3.3.1	Survey Requirement, Data Collection and Sources	<p>NRW's response on the Bats and Hedgerow survey methodology dated 7 May 2021 was noted and addressed during a subsequent meeting on 26 May 2021. This has been incorporated into the survey methodology for the DCO ES as demonstrated in Chapter 9 – Biodiversity (Volume II) of the DCO ES [AS-025].</p> <p>NRW's response on the Bats & Hedgerow survey methodology dated 11 June 2021 was noted and addressed during a subsequent meeting on 18 June 2021. This has been incorporated into the survey methodology for the DCO ES as demonstrated in Chapter 9 – Biodiversity (Volume II) of the DCO ES [AS-025].</p> <p>A revised Bats and Hedgerow survey methodology (version 4) was reissued to NRW on 24 March 2022 for comment which addressed queries raised during previous meetings with regards to the comparison element of static monitoring on Good and Excellent hedgerows.</p> <p>NRW seek further clarification on whether the barn owl survey area included a buffer to consider potential disturbance to breeding barn owls outside of the Newbuild Infrastructure Boundary. The Applicant confirms that Surveys for potential roost/nest features were completed for the entirety of the Newbuild Infrastructure Boundary (where access allowed) but further flags that the Newbuild Infrastructure Boundary has been revised and reduced during the course of design development. As such, surveys have previously been completed beyond the Newbuild Infrastructure Boundary as presented within the DCO Application, as submitted.</p> <p>NRW accepts the use of e-DNA techniques for fish but suggests a more thorough electrofishing survey would have been beneficial and seeks further clarification. The Applicant took into account the safe working practices detailed in the Environment Agency guidance and the British Standard (BS EN 14011:2003) and electric fishing was ruled out for some watercourses for health and safety reasons.</p>	Agreed
NRW 3.3.2	Assessment of Designated Sites	Following a discussion on 19 November 2021, NRW advised that Option 2 (Survey Approach) should be progressed in relation to the River Dee and Bala Lake Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and Intertidal Surveys. This survey approach was agreed with NRW and taken forward in the survey methodology.	Agreed
NRW 3.3.3	Species Specific Impacts	NRW provided comments on the use of barn owl exclusion measures, which were discussed during a meeting on 7 July 2022. DCO Proposed Development application reflects barn owl exclusion measures discussed. This is evidenced in the Barn Owl Survey Report (CONFIDENTIAL) [APP-108 to APP-111]. These exclusion measures were taken forward and therefore considered to be agreed by NRW.	Agreed
NRW 3.3.4	Aquatic Species Specific Impacts	NRW provided a response, in relation to a data request made by the Applicant regarding the presence of notable fish species and aquatic invasive non-native species throughout the Newbuild Infrastructure Boundary dated 25 April 2022. Information was received and incorporated within the DCO application.	Agreed
NRW 3.3.5	River Dee	NRW raised concern about the risk of a blowout causing a pollution event during a migratory period when a higher concentration of fish are recorded in the Dee Estuary. NRW provided advice on the seasonal restrictions for the proposed works associated with the crossing of the River Dee which was agreed and incorporated into the DCO Proposed Development.	Agreed

Ref.	Description of Matter	Current Position	Status
NRW 3.3.6	Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment	BNG approach was presented and discussed with NRW. It was agreed with NRW (and FCC) that where access has not been possible to some areas of woodland deemed to be <i>Annex I woodland</i> (e.g., Alltami Brook), these would be included in the assessment under a precautionary approach and assumed to be <i>Annex I woodland</i> . No issues were raised in terms of the tailored approach to assessment and the methodology that was used.	Agreed
NRW 3.3.7	Mitigation	A cross-border mitigation approach was discussed on 7 July 2022 and a technical note will be prepared by the Applicant to support this. This has not yet been progressed but is intended to be provided.	Under Discussion
NRW 3.3.8	Mitigation – Barn Owl	NRW advise that alternative barn owl nest locations away from the Zone of Influence should be provided. Measures have been included within the Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (OCEMP) [AS-055] for the provision of alternative nesting locations, where these are required. The need for, and locations of, mitigation nesting locations will be determined at the detailed design stage under guidance of an appropriately barn owl licensed ecologist.	Agreed
NRW 3.3.9	Mitigation - GCN	NRW seeks further information about how long the temporary culverts are expected to be present in the watercourses. The Applicant has ensured that the culvert design will adhere to Environment Agency Fish Pass standards. Acknowledging the potential for temporary culvert to be used, mitigation has been prescribed within the OCEMP [AS-055] to address any need for these.	Agreed
NRW 3.3.10	Licensing and Permits	Draft European Protected Species Licences will be prepared for each relevant species and submitted for approval by NRW during the Examination. As agreed during the meeting on 23 February 2022, there will be a single project wide mitigation licence for Wales for each species. The Parties have agreed to this approach. NRW have further clarified that scoping is now required and that this includes consideration of current conservation status (CCS) and favourable conservation status (FCS); avoidance, mitigation and compensation measures; ecological compliance audit; tenure of compensation areas and the long term (including tenure management and provision of resources.	Under Discussion
NRW 3.3.11	Great Crested Newt Conservation Plan	NRW advised that outline provisions for habitat clearance are developed further and set out in a GCN Conservation Plan to be submitted as an Annex to the detailed CEMP. NRW are comfortable with this being submitted and approved by the LPA.	Agreed
NRW 3.3.12	Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS)	NRW advise that the possibility of Chinese mitten crab transfer during hydrostatic testing should be addressed in the Final Biosecurity Management Plan. The Applicant confirms that a Biosecurity Method Statement will be produced and will address all relevant INNS concerns. The Biosecurity Method Statement will be prepared at the Detailed Design Stage to accompany the Detailed CEMP and will address all relevant Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) concerns that may be encountered during construction of the DCO Proposed Development.	Agreed
NRW 3.3.13	Mitigation Land Management	NRW advised that they welcome the proposals for woodland planting. However, as informed by current tenure proposals, the plot 19-04, around Alltami Brook, is only proposed for subsurface tenure. NRW advised they would prefer to see plot 19-04 changed to surface and sub-surface ownership, but have no objection to plot 19-04 being divided, thereby separating the woodland from other forms of land use. NRW additionally advised of the need to consider securement and future management of woodland being consistent with the requirements of Article 10 of the Habitats Directive and Regulation 41 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species	Under Discussion

Ref.	Description of Matter	Current Position	Status
		<p>Regulations 2017 (as amended) in respect of the planned provision and management of “linear or stepping stone (e.g., small woodlands) which are essential for migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of wild species.</p> <p>The Applicant advised NRW that land identified for mitigation will be subject to long term management that will be described within a detailed LEMP, to be developed at the detailed design stage. The LEMP will provide management prescriptions and monitoring of created woodland habitats (at the identified mitigation areas within the Order Limits) to ensure development of the woodland and habitats to the aspired condition which will benefit protected species and biodiversity in general. The Applicant is exploring the tenure situation at land plot 19-04 and will refer back to NRW during the Examination.</p>	
3.3.14	Habitats Regulations Assessment: Great Crested Newt	<p>NRW raised that the HRA does not appear to have considered GCN noting revised dispersal distances can be over 1.5km and note reference within the updated reptile and amphibian SSSI selection guidelines: Guidelines for the Selection of Biological SSSIs. Part 2: Detailed Guidelines for Habitats and Species Groups: Chapter 18 Reptiles and Amphibians (jncc.gov.uk).</p>	Under Discussion

Table 3-4 Issues related to the DCO Proposed Development – Drainage and Flood Risk

Ref.	Description of Matter	Current Position	Status
NRW 3.4.1	Flood Consequences Assessment	<p>A Flood Consequences Assessment (FCA) has been produced in accordance with TAN15 requirements and in line with the pre-application discussions with NRW. NRW advises that the contents of the FCA are broadly acceptable, but some minor updates are required, including reference to the Flood Map for Planning (FMfP), and the flood risk posed to the site in the event of a breach in the River Dee defences (Hawarden Embankment). The FCA also needs to provide location plans for each proposed crossing point on main rivers, and some design principles that will be followed for the crossings (open cut and trenchless).</p> <p>The Applicant would also note that the FMfP was not available at the time of undertaking the FCA [AS-004 to AS-006] and only recently released. NRW’s website states that “The Flood Map for Planning has no official status until it is formally implemented through planning policy in June 2023” but also advises that “it represents the best available information we have on flood risk and Natural Resources Wales will continue to use this to inform our planning advice”.</p> <p>The Applicant has however recently reviewed the DCO Proposed Development as described in Chapter 3 of the 2022 ES [APP-055] against the new FMfP and there are no changes to flood risk as reported in the FCA [AS-004 to AS-006]. This has been reported in the addendum to the FCA.</p>	Under Discussion
NRW 3.4.2	Mitigation Measures	<p>As requested by NRW, the FCA acknowledges the need for generic mitigation measures for managing flows during the construction phase. Any potential flood risk during the construction phase will be managed through the CEMP and FRAPs as appropriate. The Draft DCO [AS-016] commits the Applicant to produce a consolidated CEMP based on the OCEMP [AS-055].</p> <p>NRW advises that this approach is acceptable, but the OCEMP needs to be updated to confirm what will happen to any arisings resulting from the excavation works. The OCEMP should also clarify that for the proposed trenchless crossings of tidal watercourses, the entry and exit pits for the trenchless crossings will be located at least 16 metres away from the tidal watercourse and any flood defence structures on that watercourse. The Applicant confirms that Section reference D-BD-019 of the Outline CEMP [AS-055] has been updated to include ‘16m away from any tidal watercourse and any flood defence structures on that watercourse’ and has been submitted at Deadline 1. The appointed contractor will be responsible for obtaining FRAPs, noting this will include detailed working method statements and information on the management of arisings from excavation works.</p>	Under Discussion
NRW 3.4.3	NRW Operational Access and Maintenance	<p>NRW has raised concerns relating to the impact of the proposed construction compounds and equipment yards on its access arrangements to several main rivers including the River Dee and the main river network in Sandycroft/Pentre. The FCA [AS-004 to AS-006] has assessed the proposed permanent works only as agreed within the Applicant’s consultation meetings with NRW. The risk and proposed measures to manage flood risk during the construction works is referred to in the Outline CEMP [AS-055] and it is anticipated that the contractor will set out detailed measures to deal with flood risk during construction in line with the principles set out in the detailed CEMP.</p> <p>NRW has also raised concerns about the implications of the 24.4m permanent rights corridor which would place restrictions on land in the vicinity of some important flood risk assets, including the Hawarden and Northern Embankments. NRW has requested further information to understand the potential impacts this could have on its maintenance activities and future flood defence improvement schemes. The Applicant confirms that Section reference D-BD-019 of the Outline CEMP [AS-055] has been updated to include ‘16m away from any tidal watercourse and any flood defence structures on that watercourse’ and has been submitted at Deadline 1.</p> <p>The FCA [AS-004 to AS-006] has assessed the proposed permanent works only as agreed within the Applicant’s pre-application meetings with NRW. The risk and proposed measures to manage flood risk during the construction works is referred to in the</p>	Under Discussion

Ref.	Description of Matter	Current Position	Status
		<p>OCEMP [AS-055] and it is anticipated that the contractor will set out detailed measures to deal with flood risk during construction in line with the principles set out in the detailed CEMP, once appointed.</p> <p>Temporary works within 8m of a fluvial main river or flood defence, or within 16m of a tidal main river or flood defence will require a FRAP from NRW. The appointed contractor will be responsible for obtaining FRAPs, noting this will include working method statements.</p>	
NRW 3.4.4	Flood Risk Activity Permit	As requested by NRW, a bespoke FRAP supported by a temporary works application and a detailed method statement will be provided for permanent and temporary works not assessed within the FCA [AS-004 to AS-006] . This will be undertaken by the appointed contractor at the appropriate time prior to construction works commencing in areas at flood risk, within the specified limits of flood defences and main rivers.	Agreed
NRW 3.4.5	Construction Compounds	<p>NRW advise that the 30D Wood Farm and 31A River Dee centralised compounds are both located within the floodplain of the Tidal River Dee and that the ES should be updated to reflect this with a plan showing the location of the Cathodic Protection cabinet submitted for review.</p> <p>The Applicant acknowledges that the wording in the 2022 ES [APP-070] is incorrect as the compounds are in areas at risk of flooding. This will be updated in future iterations of Chapter 18 of the 2022 ES [APP-070].</p> <p>The FCA [AS-004 to AS-006] only considers permanent works, and not temporary works including compounds. The Cathodic Protection is assessed in the FCA [AS-004 to AS-006]. The location of the CP Cabinet is explained within Chapter 3 – Description of the DCO Proposed Development [APP-055] and will be marked on any future iterations of Figure 3.2 – DCO Proposed Development [APP-176].</p>	Under Discussion
NRW 3.4.6	Drainage Design (Block Valve Stations)	Following the meeting with NRW on the 07/02/2022, the BVS drainage design has been amended and the new approach (which requires new outfalls) has been agreed with NRW.	Agreed

Table 3-5 Issues related to the DCO Proposed Development – Groundwater

Ref.	Description of Matter	Current Position	Status
NRW 3.5.1	Groundwater environmental impact assessment methodology	NRW advised that the groundwater impact assessment needed to go beyond the DMRB LA 113 methodology which should be supplemented with additional assessment ideas/analogues appropriate to the DCO Proposed Development. It is agreed that the methodology used in Chapter 18 – Water Resources and Flood Risk (Volume II) of the DCO ES [APP-070] is appropriate and includes the required assessments.	Agreed
NRW 3.5.2	Pipeline excavation and groundwater dewatering	NRW seek clarity about whether boreholes drilled to date are located between the proposed pipeline alignment and potential sources of contamination. A ground investigation was undertaken and boreholes were located along the pipeline route and where possible were located to target identified sources. The Applicant proposed additional ground investigation for selected sections of the proposed pipeline route. Following a review of the conceptual site model additional boreholes/ monitoring wells can be drilled and installed to target potential sources of contamination that required further assessment.	Under Discussion
NRW 3.5.3	Quality of groundwater	NRW advise that an acceptable methodology is required to determine the disposal of any pumped groundwater generated from pipeline dewatering activities. Additional boreholes should be installed to assess the ground conditions around the proposed Alltami Brook crossing point. It is intended that the Applicant will instruct the contractor to develop a dewatering methodology prior to any works.	Under Discussion
NRW 3.5.4	Hydrostatic Testing	NRW advise that a validation process/report for the disposal of any pipeline purge water should be developed. It is intended that the Applicant will instruct a contractor to develop a testing strategy for purge water prior to disposal. A validation report stating the final discharge volume, discharge methods and processes undertaken will be produced by the contractor.	Under Discussion

Table 3-6 Issues related to the DCO Proposed Development - WFD Compliance

Ref.	Description of Matter	Current Position	Status
NRW 3.6.1	Scope of WFD Compliance Assessment	<p>NRW agrees with the screening of water bodies in the WFD compliance assessment. It is agreed that smaller watercourses within the wider WFD water bodies are assessed.</p> <p>Tributaries of the Dee Transitional water body are assessed using surface water quality elements. NRW agreed that one WFD compliance assessment covering England and Wales is sufficient. However, NRW advise that different guidance may be used in Wales / England.</p>	Agreed
NRW 3.6.2	Alltami Brook crossing (Wepre Brook water body)	<p>NRW consider that insufficient evidence and assessments have been made regarding the proposed crossing of Alltami Brook. NRW questions whether there are technical solutions available to mitigate the risk the proposal poses to the environment. NRW advises that the requirements of Regulation 19 of the WFD Regulations 2017 may need to be met for the DCO Proposed Development to proceed.</p> <p>The Applicant has undertaken the WFD compliance assessment in accordance with good practice guidance and in line with the Scoping Opinion received during consultation (though NRW note that the proposed crossing option has changed since the Scoping stage). The Applicant has considered the effect of scale and proportionality at the water body level when determining the potential effects of localised impacts. The Applicant intends to engage further with NRW to seek additional evidence that could be provided to demonstrate no deterioration of the Wepre Brook water body.</p> <p>NRW provided calculations from Qube software which indicate that the Alltami Brook is contributing approximately 37% of the flow in the Wepre Brook (at SJ 27750 67500). The estimated catchment area at the crossing point (SJ27634 67138) is 6.2km² and the estimated mean flow (Q_{mean}) is 0.07m³/s. The confluence of Alltami Brook with Wepre Brook is approximately 540m downstream of the crossing point. Just downstream of the confluence at SJ 27750 67500 the total catchment area is 16.1km² and the estimated mean flow is 0.19m³/s.</p>	Under Discussion
NRW 3.6.3	Alltami Brook crossing	<p>NRW states that additional information is needed to inform a risk assessment of the proposed Alltami Brook crossing relating to hydrogeological and groundwater conditions as well as the risk of contamination from legacy mining.</p> <p>The Applicant acknowledges the request for further information to inform the risk assessment of the proposed Alltami Brook crossing and welcomes further discussion.</p>	Under Discussion
NRW 3.6.4	Alltami Brook Options Appraisal	NRW advises that a detailed Options Appraisal for the various crossing options should be provided.	Under Discussion
NRW 3.6.5	WFD compliance (the WFD Regulations 2017)	<p>The Applicant has concluded that the DCO Proposed Development is WFD compliant assuming adoption of the mitigation measures for Alltami Brook as presented in the WFD compliance assessment.</p> <p>NRW advises that the WFD compliance assessment does not contain sufficient detail or confidence that compliance with the WFD Regulations 2017 can be reasonably assured given the lack of evidence to support the proposed Alltami Brook crossing (within the Wepre Brook water body) and therefore do not agree with the detailed assessment submitted, as well as the extent and number of sites to which the proposed generic assumed mitigation measures rely. If sufficient evidence is not forthcoming it is NRW's view that deterioration of Wepre Brook water body cannot currently be ruled out and the requirements of Regulation 19 of the WFD Regulations 2017 may therefore need to be met for the development to proceed. NRW are keen discuss this further with the Applicant with the aim of reaching common ground where possible.</p>	Under discussion

Ref.	Description of Matter	Current Position	Status
		The Applicant has undertaken the WFD compliance assessment in accordance with good practice guidance and in line with the Scoping Opinion received during consultation (though NRW note that the proposed crossing option for Alltami Brook has changed since the Scoping stage and the WFD compliance assessment does not make specific reference to NRW's internal WFD guidance note: OGN72 that was previously shared with the applicant, however the OGN72, along with the Inspectorate's Guidance Note 18, has been used as a guide to undertaking the cross-boundary WFD assessment).	
NRW 3.6.6	Cumulative effects	NRW raises concerns that cumulative effects would cause deterioration in WFD water body status due to open-cut crossings and temporary culverts. There is also no reference to cumulative effects in the WFD compliance assessment.	Under Discussion

Table 3-7- Issues related to the DCO Proposed Development – Draft DCO (including requirements to the draft DCO)

Ref.	Description of Matter	Current Position	Status
NRW 3.7.1	Draft DCO	TBC based on outcome of discussions between NRW surveyors and Applicant’s land agents.	Under discussion
NRW 3.7.2			
NRW 3.7.3			