

DRAFT STATEMENT OF COMMON GROUND WITH NETWORK RAIL (ENGLAND AND WALES)

HyNet Carbon Dioxide Pipeline DCO

Planning Act 2008

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

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STATEMENT OF COMMON GROUND

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

Signed

[NAME]

[POSITION]

on behalf of Liverpool Bay CCS Limited

Date: **[DATE]**

Signed

[NAME]

[POSITION]

on behalf of Network Rail England and Wales

Date: **[DATE]**

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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 Network Rail (NR).
- 1.1.2. For the purpose of this draft SoCG, the Applicant and NR will jointly 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. SoCGs are an established means in the DCO planning process of allowing all Parties to identify and 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 NR 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 NR primarily as a railway infrastructure provider and land owner.
- 1.2.3. The Applicant has identified the following plots in which NR hold an interest:
1-23, 14-24, 14-29, 17-12, 19-04, 19-04c, 9-21, 9-23, 9-24, 9-25
- 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.

2. RECORD OF ENGAGEMENT

- 2.1.1. This Chapter provides a summary of the engagement to date between the Applicant and NR in relation to the DCO Proposed Development.

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

Date	Form of Correspondence	Key Topics Discussed and Key Outcomes
07/04/2022	Microsoft Teams meeting between NR and the Applicant	<p>Key Topics</p> <p>Proposed Hynet Pipeline interface with existing NR assets</p> <p>Discussions and Outcomes</p> <p>A meeting was held to review the HyNet CO2 Pipeline route and Isolation Valve requirements.</p>
08/04/2022	Email correspondence between NR and the Applicant	<p>Key Topics</p> <p>Email discussing the applicability of standards to the above ground elements of the DCO Proposed Development. These elements include Block Valve Stations (BVS), Above Ground Installations (AGIs) and Emergency Shutdown Valves (ESDV) for isolation.</p>
24/05/2022	Microsoft Teams meeting between the Applicant and NR	<p>Key Topics</p> <p>Initial meeting between the Applicant and NR's property team to discuss the required consents for the rail crossings.</p> <p>Discussions and Outcomes</p> <p>The Applicant provided a general overview of the project to NR and discussed the various crossing points. NR advised that an Asset Protection Agreement would be required to cover each crossing. NR advised the Applicant in order to progress with negotiations for an Asset Protection Agreement, an internal consultation would first be required and requested the Applicant to complete a Schedule of Minimum Information (SMI) form. The Applicant requested the forms to be sent to them so they could review and complete.</p> <p>Further to the call NR sent the Applicant the SMI for review.</p>
07/07/2022	Microsoft Teams meeting and email correspondence between NR and the Applicant	<p>Key Topics</p> <p>Undertrack Crossing (UTXs) on the Hynet Project</p> <p>Discussions and Outcomes</p> <p>NR considered that 1 BAPA (Basic Asset Protection Agreement) is required for all UTXs on the Hynet DCO Project (i.e. the CO₂ pipeline which is the DCO Proposed Development + CADENT Hydrogen Project).</p> <p>It was therefore agreed that the UTX derogation for isolation valves be shared across both Hynet Projects</p>
05/09/2022	Email correspondence between NR and the Applicant	<p>Key Topics</p> <p>Completed SMI form completed and returned to NR.</p> <p>Discussions and Outcomes</p> <p>After an internal review process, the Applicant completed the SMI and returned this to NR whilst also providing an undertaking for associated costs. NR to review and advise on next steps.</p>
06/10/2022	Microsoft Teams meeting between NR and the Applicant	<p>Key Topics</p> <p>UTX Crossing Technical Note</p>

		<p>Discussions and Outcomes</p> <p>NR was advised that a technical note demonstrating compliance (use of BVS, AGIs and ESDVs for isolation) with NR crossing standards is under preparation.</p>
03/11/2022	Microsoft Teams meeting between NR and the Applicant	<p>Key Topics</p> <p>UTX Crossing Technical Note and progress of the DCO application</p> <p>Discussions and Outcomes</p> <p>The Applicant provided an update regarding the acceptance of the DCO application by the Planning Inspectorate.</p>
08/11/2022	Email correspondence between NR and the Applicant	<p>Key Topics</p> <p>UTX Crossing Technical Note</p> <p>Discussions and Outcomes</p> <p>The Applicant shared the updated UTX Crossing Technical Note with NR.</p>
01/12/2022	Microsoft Teams meeting between NR and the Applicant	<p>Key Topics</p> <p>Geotechnical Investigation (GI) & Crossings technique</p> <p>Discussions and Outcomes</p> <p>All four crossings were discussed in details with respect to GI and crossings methodology</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 20" crossings near Ince & Elton Station 2. 36" crossing Near Mollington 3. 36" crossing Near Sandycroft 4. 36" crossing Near Aston
05/01/2023	Microsoft Teams meeting between NR and the Applicant	<p>Key Topics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General project update • Status of the compliance note • NR technical docs • Site visit <p>Discussion and Outcomes</p> <p>The Applicant provided a project overview, DCO status, proposed pipeline route and overview of GI works. NR suggested that it will be requiring GI south of the 20" pipeline rail crossing. The requirement for GI works was acknowledged by the Applicant.</p> <p>The Applicant enquired on typical NR timeline for crossings design review, consents and approval. A List of NR technical documents received to date in minutes of meeting will be sent. NR to advise on further applicable documents.</p> <p>- NR-L2-CIV-177</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - NR-L1-CIV-094 - NR/L2/CIV/044 - NR/L1/CIV/0063 - NR-L2-RSE-02009 - NRPJA Seminar Paper Planning, Design and Construction of undertrack crossings and associated risk management
02/02/2023	Microsoft Teams meeting between NR and the Applicant	<p>Key Topics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General project update • Status of the compliance note • Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) and Protective Provisions • Site visit • AOB <p>Discussions and Outcomes</p> <p>The Applicant provided an overview of the current status of the DCO application, the draft SoCG and Protective Provisions.</p> <p>A separate meeting is to be organised once a draft of SoCG has been sent to NR. NR advised they have a similar document, BAPA. This typically comes through the Town planning team of NR. The Applicant advised a draft of both documents can be shared to establish consensus</p> <p>The Applicant informed that the SMI forms and associated plans were sent to NR Property Team in August 2022. NR asked to share all information so they can follow up with the Property Team.</p>
02/02/2023	Email correspondence between NR and the Applicant	The Applicant shared the SMI forms and associated plans with the NR Asset Protection - Project Interface Manager. These were originally shared by the Applicant with the NR Property team in August 2022 through WSP.
08/03/2023	Microsoft Teams meeting between NR and the Applicant	<p>Key Topics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project Update • Status of the compliance note • Site Visit • SoCG <p>Discussions and Outcomes</p> <p>The Applicant provided an overview of the current status of the DCO application. The Technical compliance note has been reviewed by NR and considered satisfactory and a derogation letter will be issued. A Site Walkover is planned for 20 April 2023. The Applicant advised that an SoCG will be shared with NR by the end of March.</p>
17/03/2023	Email correspondence between NR and the Applicant	The Applicant shared the Rule 6 letter which was published by the Planning Inspectorate recently on their website and confirms that an SoCG with NR would be required.

20/03/2023	Email correspondence between NR and the Applicant	The NR Asset Protection - Project Interface Manager shared the details of their solicitor with the Applicant so they can coordinate the protective provisions with Burges Salmon.
30/03/2023	Email correspondence between NR and the Applicant	The Applicant shared a first draft of the SoCG with NR for their review.
06/04/2023	Microsoft Teams meeting between NR and the Applicant	<p>Key Topics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project Update • Status of the compliance note • SoCG and Protective Provisions • NR Property Interface • Site Visit <p>Discussions and Outcomes</p> <p>The Applicant shared the draft SoCG on screen and advised NR that they had been requested by the Planning Inspectorate to provide this by Examination Deadline 1 (17 April). The Applicant advised they would share the very latest version and requested that NR provide any updates/feedback by end of next week ahead of Deadline 1.</p>

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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 NR are as follows:

- Engagement, ES & Other Application Documents;
- Design and Assets;
- Property, and
- Issues related to the DCO Proposed Development - Draft DCO (including requirements to the draft DCO).

Table 3-1 – Engagement, ES & Other Application Documents

Ref.	Description of Matter	Current Position	Status
Engagement			
NR 3.1.1	Engagement	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 sought to bring forward a design which has had regard to NR's views. NR has been formally consulted on the application as required by the Planning Act 2008.	Under Discussion
Land			
NR 3.1.2	Land Use	The Parties are seeking to determine, where relevant, land rights and use. NR recognises that the DCO Proposed Development requires the use of subsoil under and other rights over NR's operational railway. However, NR requires the necessary subsoil rights or other rights to be acquired through voluntary agreement rather than through the exercise of compulsory acquisition powers. NR has stated that any use of the operational railway must only be permitted in accordance with the statutory requirements imposed on NR as the operator of the railway network. In addition, any acquisition of rights over the operational railway must be subject to NR's land clearance process, which is imposed on NR by its Network Licence, which includes internal consultation with railway stakeholders and the ORR. The Parties will seek agreement where required.	Under Discussion
ES			
NR 3.1.3	ES	NR considers that appropriate regard has been had to its proposals in the cumulative assessment having regard to the level of information available. NR concurs with the conclusions of the ES	Under Discussion
Other application documents			
NR 3.1.4	Other application documents	NR agrees that its interests are correctly reflected in the Book of Reference [AS-023] .	Under Discussion

Table 3-2 – Issues related to Design and Assets

Ref.	Description of Matter	Current Position	Status
NR 3.2.1	NR Requirements	NR have requested that the Applicant submit a derogation request to remove a requirement (Section 9.3 of NR/L2/CIV/044) for Isolation Valves either side of a pipeline rail crossing. The Applicant will adopt best engineering and construction practice where proposed pipelines cross existing NR assets.	Under Discussion
NR 3.2.2	NR Assets	NR have raised that its assets detailed in Work Nos. 4, 24, 24A, 25, 31B, 32, 38 and 43 relate to works on or adjacent to NR's existing operational railway and railway infrastructure. NR confirmed that in addition to protective provisions for the benefit of NR being included in the Order, NR also requires the Applicant to enter into an asset protection agreement (APA) to ensure the appropriate and necessary technical, engineering	Under Discussion

		<p>and safety requirements for working on or near NR's operational railway are applied to the DCO Proposed Development. The Applicant is agreeable in principle to entering into an APA and discussion on the terms of that agreement are ongoing but are not completed.</p> <p>NR has provided the Applicant with its required Protective Provisions and draft of the required Framework Agreement to manage the direct interface that the DCO has with the operational railway. The Framework Agreement will contain amongst other things, the APA, agreed form of Protective Provisions and any property agreement which may be required. The Applicant is currently reviewing these documents and will provide comments in due course. The Applicant will continue to engage with NR regarding Protective Provisions and protection of assets.</p>	
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Table 3-3 – Issues related to Property

Ref.	Description of Matter	Current Position	Status
NR 3.3.1	NR Internal Consultation	The Applicant has completed the Schedule of Minimum Information and returned this to NR on 5 September 2022. The Applicant is awaiting feedback on this in order to progress voluntary negotiations with NR.	Under Discussion

Table 3-4 – Issues related to the DCO Proposed Development - Draft DCO (including requirements to the draft DCO)

Ref.	Description of Matter	Current Position	Status
NR 3.4.1	Draft DCO Articles	<p>NR does not object in principle to the DCO Proposed Development.</p> <p>NR does object to powers contained in articles 19, 21, 22, 24, 26, 27, 28, 29, 31, 33, 34, 35 and 39 of the draft DCO [AS-016] authorising the Applicant to compulsorily acquire land, rights in or over land, or temporarily use land which NR relies upon for the carrying out of its statutory undertaking. NR does not believe this to be justified or necessary and will strongly resist acquisition of land and rights which are to be retained in order for NR to carry out its undertaking.</p>	Under Discussion
NR 3.4.2	Protective Provisions	A set of draft Protective Provisions has been circulated by NR and is currently being reviewed and updated by the Applicant.	Under Discussion