



**APPLICATION BY LIVERPOOL BAY CCS LIMITED FOR AN ORDER
GRANTING DEVELOPMENT CONSENT FOR THE HYNET CARBON
DIOXIDE PIPELINE**

**APPLICATION REF EN070007
PIBLINELL CARBON DEUOCSID HYNET /
HYNET CARBON DIOXIDE PIPELINE**

**FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL'S WRITTEN SUMMARY OF ORAL
SUBMISSIONS TO THE ISSUE SPECIFIC HEARING 1 (6 JUNE 2023)**

SUBMITTED AT DEADLINE 4 – TUESDAY 20 JUNE 2023

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This document has been prepared by FCC and relates to an application ('the Application') for a Development Consent Order (DCO) that has been submitted to the Secretary of State (SoS) for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) (formerly BEIS) under Section 37 of the Planning Act 2008 ('the PA 2008'). The Application relates to the carbon dioxide (CO₂) pipeline which constitutes the DCO Proposed Development.
- 1.2 This document provides the written summary of oral submissions made by Officers of Flintshire County Council at the Issues Specific Hearing 1 (ISH1) on 6 June 2023.
- 1.3 This document does not purport to summarise the oral submissions of parties other than those representing Flintshire County Council.

2. Agenda Item 2

- 2.1 FCC confirmed to the Examining Authority (ExA) that FCC would continue to liaise with the applicant with regards to any planning applications and planning permission that may be submitted in the future in the Development Consent Order Limits. FCC would also keep the ExA informed of any developments that may be permitted in the Order limits.

3. Agenda Item 3 - Biodiversity

- 3.1 Amanda Davies, FCC's ecologist confirmed that FCC has been liaising with Cheshire West and Chester Council (CWAC)'s ecologist with regards to the metric requirement to provide Biodiversity Net Gain in England. Amanda Davies confirmed that this is not a requirement in Wales.
- 3.2 Amanda Davies confirmed to the Examining Authority that the Local Development Plan Policies relevant to the application in relation to biodiversity are, Strategic Policy STR14 which seeks to conserve, protect and enhance Flintshire's natural environment and biodiversity. Policy EN6 provides a detailed criteria-based policy which includes a mitigation hierarchy with regards to providing enhancements. The Policy requires measures to create, restore and enhance nature conservation and habitats.
- 3.3 Welsh Government has just completed a consultation on Planning Policy Wales with regards to a targeted policy change on net benefit for biodiversity and ecosystems resilience, (incorporating changes to strengthen policy on Sites of Special Scientific Interest, Trees and Woodlands and Green Infrastructure.
- 3.4 Discussion took place with regards to how the applicant could increase the amount of biodiversity net gain.

- 3.5 Amanda Davies, FCC's ecologist suggested that there are opportunities through the European Protect Species Licences for example for great crested newts to enhance the terrestrial and aquatic habitats. Also, there are opportunities for connecting habitats through hedgerow improvements to identify where hedgerows can be enhanced to link habitats. There are other opportunities in the wider area beyond Flintshire for a nature recovery plan which would involve working with other organisations such as the wildlife trust. There are ongoing projects but nothing specific.
- 3.6 When the Examining Authority asked about priority habitats such as peatland. FCC confirmed that peatlands are not a feature of Flintshire, unlike Denbighshire and parts of Conwy.
- 3.7 A discussion took place with regards to concerns raised by CWAC with regards to the range of ecological surveys for certain species, however Amanda Davies confirmed that Flintshire was satisfied with the range proposed, and that there are proposals for ongoing checks and surveys.
- 3.8 When the Examining Authority asked FCC's ecologist with regards to the aquatic environment, Amanda Davies confirmed that Flintshire have not raised any concerns with regards to the aquatic environment and that no additional surveys would be required.

4. Agenda Item 4 - Trees

- 4.1 Flintshire County Council confirmed to the Examining Authority that there was nothing further to add wither regards to the comments on trees.

5. Agenda Item 5 – Private Water Supplies

- 5.1 FCC confirmed that as a Local Authority, Flintshire will be made aware of any new private water supplies in the Flintshire area and FCC will commit to provide an update to the Examination if those circumstances arose.

6. Agenda Item 5 – Community Benefit

- 6.1 FCC made an oral representation on the views of the County Council in relation to the need for the applicant to enter into a voluntary community benefit fund, building on written evidence already provided to the Examining Authority. Whilst there may not be a legal requirement for the applicant to provide such a fund, the Council strongly believe that the developer should provide a voluntary fund such as those provided by developers of other large infrastructure projects in North Wales. FCC would welcome further discussions with the developer.