

Viking CCS Pipeline

**Environmental
Statement Volume II -
Chapter 4: Consultation**

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4 Consultation

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 This chapter of the Environmental Statement (ES) explains the Development Consent Order (DCO) consultation requirements, stakeholder engagement to date, the Non-Statutory Consultation, the Statutory Consultation and the design revisions consultation. Effective stakeholder engagement and consultation is intrinsic to the Planning Act 2008 (Ref 4-1) consenting regime and is considered to be fundamental to the success of the Viking CCS Pipeline (hereafter referred to as 'the Proposed Development').
- 4.1.2 The process of consultation is critical to the development of a comprehensive and proportionate ES. The views of statutory and non-statutory consultees serve to focus the environmental studies and to identify specific issues that require further investigation.
- 4.1.3 In the context of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), consultation enables mitigation measures to be identified and agreed with stakeholders and then incorporated into the design of the Proposed Development, thereby reducing adverse effects and enhancing environmental benefits.
- 4.1.4 The Proposed Development has a wide range of stakeholders (including landowners, statutory/prescribed consultees, local communities and their elected representatives, and specialist interest groups) with differing interests that will require varied levels of consultation. Specific communication activities therefore need to be focussed to meet the needs of individuals and groups. This requires an understanding of the stakeholders and their interests in the Proposed Development.
- 4.1.5 Stakeholder engagement for the Proposed Development is based on the following core principles:
- Early and ongoing engagement to inform and influence the design process;
 - Seeking feedback through the iterative design process and taking this feedback into consideration;
 - Building of long-term relationships with key stakeholders throughout the different stages of the Proposed Development to help better understand their views;
 - Where possible and practicable, ensuring concerns are addressed; and
 - Ensuring appropriate statutory consultation is undertaken in compliance with requirements of the Planning Act 2008 (Ref 4-1), Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (EIA Regulations) (Ref 4-2) and associated guidance.
- 4.1.6 Full details of the consultation undertaken for the Proposed Development can be found in the *Consultation Report (Application Document 5.1)*, which is in accordance with Section 37(7) of the Planning Act 2008 (Ref 4-1).

4.2 DCO Consultation Requirements

- 4.2.1 The DCO process has several statutory requirements regarding consultation. These requirements stipulate that certain statutory/prescribed consultees and the community must be consulted as part of the pre-application process, as set out in Sections 42, 47, 48 and 49 of the Planning Act 2008 (Ref 4-1), Regulation 13 of the EIA Regulations (Ref 4-2) and the

Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 as follows:

- Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008 requires the applicant to consult with 'prescribed persons' which includes certain consultation bodies such as the Environment Agency, Historic England and Natural England, relevant statutory undertakers, relevant local authorities, those with an interest in the land, as well as those who may be affected by the development;
- Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008 requires the applicant to consult with the local community on the development. Prior to this, the applicant must agree a Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) with the relevant local authorities. The SoCC must set out the proposed community consultation and, once agreed with the relevant local authorities, a notice must be published in local newspapers circulating within the vicinity of the land in question. The consultation must then be undertaken in accordance with the final SoCC;
- Section 48 of the Planning Act 2008 places a duty on the applicant to publicise the proposed application in the 'prescribed manner' in a national newspaper, The London Gazette, and one or more local newspapers circulating within the vicinity of the land; and
- Section 49 of the Planning Act 2008 places a duty on the applicant to take account of any relevant responses received to the consultation and publicity that is required by Sections 42, 47 and 48.

4.2.2 The *Consultation Report (Application Document 5.1)* provides further detail on how each of these requirements have been met for the proposed Development, with a general summary provided within the sections below.

4.3 Stakeholder Engagement

4.3.1 The Applicant commenced engagement activities in 2021, where it held initial meetings with National Grid on 21 July 2021 and with Lincolnshire County Council on 26 November 2021.

4.3.2 A series of introductory meetings were also held with several key stakeholders and Local Planning Authorities between December 2021 and April 2022. These included:

- The Planning Inspectorate;
- Lincolnshire County Council;
- North Lincolnshire Council;
- North East Lincolnshire Council;
- East Lindsey District Council;
- West Lindsey District Council;
- Natural England;
- Environment Agency;
- Historic England; and
- Lincolnshire Wolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Conservation Board.

4.3.3 Feedback from early stakeholder engagement was reviewed on a regular basis by the Proposed Development team and, where appropriate, considered for further investigation to inform the ongoing design of the Proposed Development.

4.3.4 Following the early engagement detailed above, a series of formal consultation periods have been carried out for the Proposed Development. These are described in more detail below but consisted of:

- Non-Statutory Consultation – April to June 2022;
- Further Non-Statutory Consultation – September to October 2022;
- Statutory Consultation – November 2022 to January 2023; and
- Targeted Design Revisions Consultation – April to May 2023.

4.3.5 In addition to the main consultation periods outlined above, continued stakeholder engagement has taken place with key stakeholders and Local Planning Authorities throughout this period and up to submission of the DCO application. The purpose of this engagement was to continually take on board feedback from stakeholders in order to inform the Proposed Development emerging design and environmental assessments. The consultation that took place to inform the individual environmental assessments contained within this ES is outlined, where relevant, within the technical ES chapters. Full details of this ongoing engagement can be found in Chapter 8 of the *Consultation Report (Application Document 5.1)*.

4.4 EIA Scoping Report

4.4.1 Scoping forms a key stage of the EIA process; providing a framework for identifying likely significant environmental effects arising from the Proposed Development and defining the environmental topics to be addressed within the ES.

4.4.2 On 29 March 2022, an EIA Scoping Report was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate, accompanied by a formal request for a Scoping Opinion. The Scoping Report clearly outlined the intended scope of each environmental topic and the overall structure of the ES.

4.4.3 An EIA Scoping Opinion was received from the Planning Inspectorate (on behalf of the Secretary of State (SoS)) in May 2022 and is presented in *ES Volume IV: Appendix 5.2 (Application Document 6.4.5.2)*. The advice contained within the Scoping Opinion has been taken into account for the EIA assessment methodology, topics, and presentation of the ES.

4.4.4 In examining the proposed scope of the EIA, the Planning Inspectorate engaged a range of prescribed consultees (comprising statutory and non-statutory bodies, agencies and groups) for their views on the content of the assessments. Specific responses to each of the items within the Scoping Opinion are summarised within each of the technical topics and provided in one place within *ES Volume IV: Appendix 5.3 (Application Document 6.4.5.3)*.

4.5 Non-statutory Consultations

4.5.1 The applicant acknowledges that undertaking effective consultation is critical to the overall success of the Proposed Development. As a result, two separate phases of Non-Statutory Consultation were undertaken. The first was held for six weeks, from Tuesday 26 April to Tuesday 7 June 2022, whilst a second phase was held from Thursday 8 September to Thursday 6 October 2022.

4.5.2 This first phase of consultation introduced the Proposed Development, and sought feedback from members of the public, impacted landowners and key stakeholders on the initial pipeline corridor, spanning from the Immingham industrial site to the former Theddlethorpe Gas Terminal.

4.5.3 Following feedback from this consultation, and further technical work by the project team to find the optimum route corridor, some key changes were made to the corridor.

- 4.5.4 The second phase focussed on those areas where the pipeline corridor had been amended as the Proposed Development design had progressed.
- 4.5.5 The Non-Statutory Consultation utilised a hybrid approach, consisting of both in-person and online public engagement. A range of consultation materials were developed to present the Proposed Development information and were made available to view both online and in-person. A dedicated website provided background to the Proposed Development and the proposed route corridor, the Proposed Development vision, information about the Applicant and consultation timescales and events. The consultation brochure and Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) were available to download and there was a link to complete the feedback form online or download a copy of it to allow it to be completed offline. Additionally, there was a Contact Us form available, where the project team would follow up with any individual who left details.
- 4.5.6 Five community drop-in events were held during the first Non-Statutory Consultation over the first two weeks of the consultation period, from 26 April to 5 May 2022. The events were located in venues selected due to their proximity to the Proposed Development. These venues were:
- Best Western Oaklands Hall Hotel, Laceby;
 - Ashbourne Hotel, Immingham;
 - North Thoresby Village Hall;
 - Theddlethorpe Village Hall; and
 - Grimoldby and Manby Village Hall.
- 4.5.7 216 people attended the consultation events during the first Non-Statutory Consultation.
- 4.5.8 Two drop-in events were held during the further Non-Statutory Consultation on 13 and 14 September 2022 at:
- Healing Manor Hotel; and
 - The Brackenborough Hotel.
- 4.5.9 90 people attended the consultation events during the further Non-Statutory consultation.

Key Feedback from the Non-statutory Consultations

- 4.5.10 The *Non-Statutory Consultation Report (Consultation Report Appendix A, Application Document 5.2.1)* includes a full narrative of the non-statutory consultations undertaken and the feedback provided to those consultations.
- 4.5.11 The response form for the first Non-Statutory Consultation sought a range of feedback, including specific aspects of the proposal and detailed comments. In total, the first Non-Statutory Consultation received 55 survey responses.
- 4.5.12 Overall, the majority of those who responded to the Non-Statutory Consultation expressed support for the Proposed Development's efforts to decarbonise industry by building carbon capture infrastructure in the area. There was also support for the Proposed Development's rationale, with acknowledgement of the importance of meeting government carbon reduction targets through carbon capture and storage technologies.
- 4.5.13 There was a strong interest from respondents to see further information about the detailed route of the pipeline and construction impacts and timings, particularly with regards to any disruption to landowners, local communities, businesses, and agriculture during construction. Further to this, queries related to pipeline design, operation and safety were raised by some respondents as well as the interface with the former Theddlethorpe Gas Terminal.

- 4.5.14 Feedback also focussed on the Proposed Development's environmental impacts, particularly related to local biodiversity, agricultural drainage, and the justification behind routeing in the AONB.
- 4.5.15 There were also several suggestions from landowners and local residents relating to re-routeing, such as proposed alternative routes to avoid specific areas, including environmental and agricultural features and heritage sites including extant ridge and furrow.
- 4.5.16 The spread of respondents' postcodes highlighted the high level of local interest in the Proposed Development and its benefits and impacts. The majority of respondents live close to the pipeline corridor, including in Immingham, North Thoresby, Louth and Grimoldby. A key finding was that respondents who live close to the southern section of the corridor were less supportive of the Proposed Development and the efforts to decarbonise industry using carbon capture in the area, compared to those living towards the north of the pipeline corridor.
- 4.5.17 A total of 41 responses were received to the further Non-Statutory Consultation.
- 4.5.18 Over half of those who responded to the non-statutory consultation expressed support for the Proposed Development's efforts to decarbonise industry. All of those who responded understood why Harbour Energy was seeking to construct the new pipeline.
- 4.5.19 Many respondents requested reassurance that local communities, farming and agriculture would face minimal levels of disruption. This included concerns around noise pollution, increased traffic and potential impacts to house values.
- 4.5.20 Some additional feedback during the further Non-Statutory Consultation related to the corridor routeing, and expressed a high-level preference for the revised pipeline corridor due to it being relocated further away from South Cockerington and Brackenborough. Others expressed the opinion that the pipeline should be routed away from housing to avoid local disruption. A number of respondents also requested that the pipeline be routed north and northeast of Aylesby, Laceby and North Thoresby.
- 4.5.21 As a general point to note, in October 2022, the Proposed Development changed its name from the V Net Zero Pipeline to the Viking CCS Pipeline to better reflect the strength of the Proposed Development's carbon capture and storage capabilities. Both the first Non-Statutory Consultation and further Non-Statutory Consultation were conducted prior to the name change.

4.6 Statutory Consultation

Overview

- 4.6.1 Following the Non-Statutory Consultations, Statutory Consultation for the Proposed Development took place over a nine-week period.
- 4.6.2 It commenced on the 22 November 2022 and ended on the 24 January 2023. The Statutory Consultation is pursuant to the Planning Act 2008 (Ref 4-1) and EIA Regulations (Ref 4-2).
- 4.6.3 Consultation was carried out with prescribed stakeholder bodies and affected landowners, in accordance with Sections 42 and 48 of the Planning Act 2008 (Ref 4-1) and Regulation 13 of the EIA Regulations (Ref 4-2).
- 4.6.4 Consultation was also undertaken with local communities under Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008 (Ref 4-1).
- 4.6.5 The methods of engagement that were undertaken as part of the Statutory Consultation included the following:

- Seven in-person events at various locations (Theddlethorpe, Louth, Immingham, Healing, Mablethorpe, North Thoresby, Grimoldby and Manby), where members of the community interacted directly with members of the Proposed Development team. These were held on a mixture of weekdays, evening and weekends (**Table 4-1**);
- Virtual Consultation Room (VCR), an interactive web-based tool which complemented the in-person events;
- An online webinar, where members of the community could ask the project Team questions;
- Publication of a consultation brochure, FAQ document, response form, maps, the Non-Statutory Consultation Report, and the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR);
- Notices in a local newspapers and posters in community locations;
- A number of social media campaigns; and
- Engagement with local authorities and elected members.

Table 4-1: In-Person Consultation Events

Date	Location	Time
Tuesday 22 November	Theddlethorpe Village Hall, Silver Street, Theddlethorpe, Mablethorpe, LN12 1PA	3pm – 7pm
Wednesday 23 November	Louth Town Hall, Eastgate, Louth, LN11 9NH	3pm – 7pm
Friday 25 November	Immingham Civic Centre Hub, Pelham Road, Immingham, DN40 1QF	3pm – 7pm
Saturday 26 November	Healing Village Hall, Poplar Road Park, Poplar Road, Healing, DN41 7SR	2pm – 5pm
Monday 28 November	Trusthorpe Village Hall, Sutton Road, Trusthorpe, Mablethorpe, LN12 2GN	3pm – 6.30pm
Wednesday 30 November	North Thoresby Village Hall, The Square, North Thoresby, Grimsby, DN26 5QL	3pm – 6.30pm
Thursday 1 December	Grimoldby and Manby Village Hall, 6 Tinkle Street, Grimoldby, LN11 8SW	3pm – 7pm

4.6.6 The purpose of the Statutory Consultation was to comply with the requirements under the Planning Act 2008 (Ref 4-1), as part of the planning process and to gain valuable feedback from stakeholders with regard to the emerging design and construction methodology. The Statutory Consultation also provided stakeholders with preliminary environmental information, which included the potential environmental effects of the Proposed Development.

4.6.7 All the responses received during the Statutory Consultation were carefully considered in the design evolution of the Proposed Development in accordance with Section 49 of the Planning Act 2008 (Ref 4-1). Details of the full responses to the feedback received during the Statutory Consultation is included within the *Consultation Report (Application Document*

5.1) and where relevant to specific environmental assessments is included within the relevant technical ES chapters.

- 4.6.8 The *Consultation Report (Application Document 5.1)* demonstrates how the Applicant has complied with the consultation requirements of the Planning Act 2008 (Ref 4-1) and EIA Regulations (Ref 4-2).

Preliminary Environmental Information Report

- 4.6.9 Under Regulation 12 of the EIA Regulations, the Applicant is required to set out in its *Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) Appendix B of the Consultation Report (Application Document 5.2.2)* how it intends to publicise and consult on preliminary environmental information relating to the proposed development. Regulation 12 defines preliminary environmental information as being the information referred to in Regulation 14(2) which has been compiled by the Applicant; and is reasonably required for the consultation bodies to develop an informed view of the likely significant effects of the development (and of any associated development).
- 4.6.10 Consequently, the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) (Ref 4-3) was published in November 2022 as part of the Statutory Consultation process and presented the preliminary findings of the assessment of potential significant environmental effects of the Proposed Development as available at that time.
- 4.6.11 The feedback received from consultees during the Statutory Consultation period has been used to inform the EIA and the Proposed Development design.
- 4.6.12 In addition to the Statutory Consultation detailed above, topic specific technical and procedural consultation has continued throughout the EIA process and where this is the case, further detail is provided within the relevant technical ES chapters.

Key Feedback from Statutory Consultation

- 4.6.13 The responses received at the Statutory Consultation, and how the Proposed Development took account of these responses, are detailed fully in the *Consultation Report (Application Document 5.1)*.
- 4.6.14 In total, there were 223 responses to Statutory Consultation. Of the respondents who answered the relevant question, 86% of responses were in support or neutral towards plans for the Proposed Development.
- 4.6.15 At this stage, the Proposed Development was presenting refined Draft Order Limits within which the pipeline could be routed. This was reflected in the feedback received at the Statutory Consultation, with many comments focussed on localised impacts from the Draft Order Limits or associated infrastructure.
- 4.6.16 Support was shown for the updates to the corridor, particularly moving it away from communities such as South Cockerington and Grimoldby.
- 4.6.17 A number of comments focussed on environmental impacts, notably reinstating agricultural land, impact on chalk streams and biodiversity net gain opportunities. There was also an increased focus (compared to earlier stages of consultation) relating to construction management, such as carbon footprint, concerns about construction traffic and the need to reduce impact on agriculture and drainage.
- 4.6.18 Other themes included the above ground infrastructure, including industries at the Immingham facility, and the safety and design of the vent stack at Theddlethorpe. Safety based comments revolved around detection of leaks and contingency plans.
- 4.6.19 Community opportunities were also raised, including questions around funding for local groups, parish councils and charities, as well as raising awareness with local schools and organisations.

4.6.20 Specific locations mentioned included: Welbeck Spring, Hoxton medieval village, Sandhill area of conservation, Saltfleetby and Theddlethorpe Nature Reserve.

4.7 Targeted Design Revisions Consultation

4.7.1 Following the Statutory Consultation that took place between November 2022 and January 2023, it was determined through consultation feedback, landowner discussions and additional engineering work that further revisions to the Proposed Development's design were required. The Targeted Design Revisions Consultation took place from Friday 14 April to Sunday 14 May 2023 and was targeted at those who were likely to be affected by the revisions.

4.7.2 The following revisions were included in the Targeted Design Revision Consultation:

- *Northern construction compound* – DCO Site Boundary expanded to enable the compound to be connected to a nearby electrical power supply;
- *Area west of Aylesby* - Amendment to DCO Site Boundary to increase the distance from a development for which planning permission has been granted. Additionally, there was an amendment to make use of an existing layby to gain additional temporary access off the A18 Barton Street;
- *Block Valve Station near Washingdales Lane* - The site of the block valve station was moved in this area from the original location on the northern side of Washingdales Lane to the southern side;
- *Area east of Irby upon Humber* - Moving the DCO Site Boundary closer to the boundary of a field;
- *Area near Welbeck Spring* - The DCO Site Boundary was moved further away from Welbeck Spring;
- *Central construction compound* - The DCO Site Boundary was moved slightly to the west to run alongside the edge of the A18. This will allow for flexibility when designing the access to the central compound;
- *Area near Louth Water Treatment Works* - Widening of the DCO Site Boundary near the existing water treatment works to provide additional flexibility to route a trenchless crossing;
- *Area north of Grimoldby* - Small amendment to move the DCO Site Boundary to the south west;
- *Area south of Theddlethorpe All Saints* - Small amendment to the DCO Site Boundary to move the working area and pipeline route away from a residential property;
- *Area west of the former Theddlethorpe Gas Terminal* – Refinement of the design including both options for the location of the Theddlethorpe Facility. Seeking additional views specifically on the option to the west. This also included changes to the DCO Site Boundary to accommodate the route of the pipeline and to facilitate access roads and an electrical connection;
- *Block Valve Station* – Extension of the DCO Site Boundary at the three block valve station sites to allow for power cable connections in grass verges; and
- *Bellmouth junctions for temporary accesses* - Minor revisions to the DCO Site Boundary to include 'bellmouths' where temporary accesses meet the public highway. Bellmouths refer to the shape of the entrance to the junction. They provide extra width and visibility to allow safe access for vehicles.

- 4.7.3 In total, there were 78 responses to the Targeted Design Revisions Consultation.
- 4.7.4 The majority of the feedback received focussed on the area west of the former Theddlethorpe Gas Terminal, with local residents concerned about the impact of Theddlethorpe Facility (Option 2), which would be located on current Arable land and closer to residential properties than Theddlethorpe Facility Option 1. Other feedback raised questions about the need for the Theddlethorpe facility at Option 2 and questions around the equipment that will be sited there.
- 4.7.5 For other proposed revisions, feedback was more limited but provided comments on localised impacts from the revisions and how these could be mitigated. The feedback received from the additional targeted consultation was used to shape the proposals presented in this DCO and ES.
- 4.7.6 Further details on how the applicant responded to the feedback from the Targeted Design Revisions Consultation and the Applicant's response is provided within the *Consultation Report (Application Document 5.1)*.

4.8 Summary

- 4.8.1 As part of the evolution of the Proposed Development's design, and in line with the prescribed regulations, extensive consultation has been undertaken both with statutory bodies and with members of the community. Feedback received has been directly fed into the design process and has helped influence the final design and routing of the Proposed Development as presented in *ES Volume II Chapter 3: Description of the Proposed Development (Application Document 6.2.3)*.
- 4.8.2 The Applicant acknowledges how valuable the consultation and engagement process is to the success of the Proposed Development. This is why such extensive periods were allowed during both the Non-Statutory Consultation and the Statutory Consultation, which significantly exceeded the prescribed minimum time required in the regulations.

4.9 References

Ref 4-1 *HM Government, 2008*. Planning Act 2008. Available at:
<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/29/contents>

Ref 4-2 *HM Government, 2017*. The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017. Available at:
<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2017/572/contents/made>

Ref 4-3 *AECOM, 2022*. Viking CCS pipeline Preliminary Environmental Information Report. Available at: <https://consultation.vikingccs.co.uk/consultation-documents>

