

Statement of Community Consultation

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Volume

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Glossary

Term	Description
BEIS	The Department for Business, Energy, and Industrial Strategy
CS	Carbon Steel
DESNZ	The Department for Energy Security and Net Zero
DER	Design Evolution Report
DCO	Development Consent Order
DLUHC	Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
ES	Environmental Statement
GDPR	General Data Protection Regulation
LoD	Limit of Deviation
MMO	Marine Management Organisation
PA 2008	The Planning Act 2008
PE	Polyethylene
PEIR	Preliminary Environment Information Report
PINS	The Planning Inspectorate
SoCC	Statement of Community Consultation
NPS	National Policy Statement
NSIP	Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project

Contents

1.	Introduction	4
1.1	Who is Cadent?	4
1.2	Background to the Project	4
1.3	Purpose and Structure of this Statement of Community Consultation	5
1.4	Local Planning Authorities	6
1.5	Marine Management Organisation	7
2.	The Project	8
2.1	The Project	8
3.	The Planning Process	10
3.1	Development Consent Order	10
3.2	Environmental Information	12
3.3	Legal Requirement to Consult	12
4.	Our Approach to Consultation	14
4.1	Purpose and Objectives	14
4.2	When will the Stage Three Consultation take place?	15
4.3	Who will we Consult?	15
4.4	How we will consult	17
	Project postcard	17
	Project website	17
	Consultation documents	17
	In-person consultation events	18
	Online virtual exhibition space and online events	19
	Information points	20
	Publicity and advertising	22
	Project contact team	23
4.5	Hard to reach/Seldom heard groups	24
5.	How to Respond to the Consultation	25
5.1	Response Channels	25
6.	What Happens Next	26
7.	Further Information	27

Table 4.1	In-person consultation events	18
Table 4.2	Information points	20
Table 4.3	Press advertisements	23

Appendix A	Project Host and Neighbouring Authorities
Appendix B	Consultation Zone
Appendix C	Local & Special Interest Groups
Appendix D	Hard to Reach/Seldom Heard Groups

1. Introduction

1.1 Who is Cadent?

1.1.1 Cadent Gas Limited (hereafter referred to as 'Cadent') owns, operates, and maintains the gas distribution network throughout the North West, West Midlands, East Midlands, South Yorkshire, East of England and North London, serving 11 million homes and businesses. In line with this role, Cadent is responsible for the following activities:

- Looking after the main gas pipe that supplies larger areas, as well as the smaller pipes branching off from it that takes gas to homes and businesses;
- Maintaining, repairing, and replacing gas pipes to ensure the safe and reliable flow of gas now and long into the future;
- Managing the National Gas Emergency Service for all gas customers in the UK. If something goes wrong, Cadent is the first point of call to make sure it is dealt with calmly, quickly and safely;
- Connecting homes and renewable gas suppliers to its network;
- Working with local businesses to expand and develop its network; and
- Providing extra care for those who might need it in a gas emergency.

1.1.2 Cadent does not produce gas and does not own the gas that flows through its pipes. It is solely responsible for its transportation and distribution.

1.2 Background to the Project

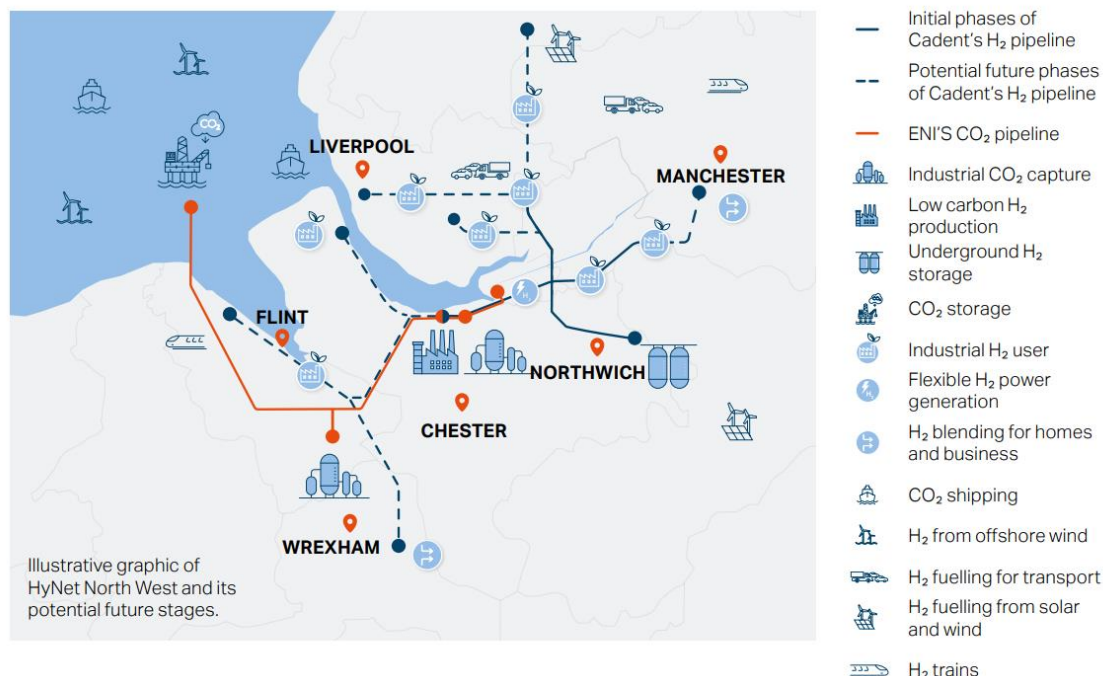
1.2.1 The HyNet North West Hydrogen Pipeline (the Project) aims to deliver hydrogen to multiple industrial users and power generators in the North West. It will also take hydrogen to gas blending points for introduction into the existing gas network, along with connecting to associated hydrogen storage facilities to help balance the supply and demand on the pipeline.

1.2.2 The Project forms part of the wider HyNet North West decarbonisation project (see **Figure 1.1**) which includes other elements, including a carbon dioxide pipeline, a hydrogen production facility and underground hydrogen storage. These elements are subject to separate consents and applications and are not being promoted by Cadent. The elements of the wider programme include:

- Production of hydrogen at the Hydrogen Production Plant (located at Stanlow Refinery) (Resolution to approve);
- Development of Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) infrastructure for capture, transport and storage of carbon dioxide from the Hydrogen Production Plant (as well as existing and new build industrial facilities by Liverpool Bay CCS Ltd (Consent granted March 2024); and

- Development of a Hydrogen Storage Facility (HSF) by Inovyn at underground storage caverns in Cheshire to allow for fluctuations in demand.

Figure 1.1 The wider HyNet North West programme and its potential future phases



- 1.2.3 Before an application for a DCO is made, Cadent is required to consult with those living in the vicinity of the land proposed for development (under Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008 (PA 2008)), key local authorities, persons with an interest in the land and prescribed statutory bodies, as well as publicising the proposed application (under Section 48 of the PA 2008). The purpose of this document is to describe the methodology for this consultation.

1.3 Purpose and Structure of this Statement of Community Consultation

- 1.3.1 It is important to Cadent that our communities (including hard to reach/seldom heard groups), the general public and other stakeholders are involved in the development of the Project. Public consultation helps us to gather feedback and identify key issues of concern, enabling us to address these and improve our proposals. This Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) sets out how we intend to consult the public and local communities in the vicinity of the Project on our proposed DCO application. It sets out:

- Information and background on the project proposals;
- Details of the legal framework for consultation under the PA 2008;

- Our proposed approach to consultation (including Preliminary Environmental Information) such as when the consultation will be conducted, who will be consulted, where the consultation will take place and the methods that will be used; and
- How we will gather feedback and use it to develop the Project.

1.3.2 This SoCC has been prepared in accordance with Section 47 of the PA 2008 in respect of how we will consult persons living in the vicinity of the land. It explains how Cadent will consult the local community on the proposed DCO application. Amongst other matters this document sets out:

- When and where the consultation will be held;
- The information that will be made available during that consultation;
- Who will be consulted; and
- How the community will be consulted.

1.3.3 This SoCC has been prepared with reference to guidance by the Government, PINS advice notes and each local planning authorities' Statement of Community Involvement (SCI).

1.4 Local Planning Authorities

1.4.1 The Project will be located within the administrative boundary of the following local authorities that have land within the Draft Order Limits (the "host authorities"):

- Cheshire East Council;
- Cheshire West and Chester Council;
- Halton Borough Council;
- St Helens Borough Council;
- Trafford Council; and
- Warrington Borough Council.

1.4.2 There are no County Councils who have land within the Draft Order Limits.

1.4.3 **Appendix A** identifies the host authorities and the neighbouring authorities, relevant to the Project.

1.4.4 Section 47(2) of the Act provides that before preparing the SoCC, Cadent must consult each host authority about what is to be included within the SoCC. In accordance with the Act, each host authority was consulted as part of the development of the SoCC, and their views taken into consideration as part of a 28-day consultation period which ran from 09 July 2024 to 06 August 2024.

1.5 Marine Management Organisation

- 1.5.1 **Section 4.10** of the Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1) outlines that the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) should be consulted to ensure that their requirements for licenses are met with regard to impacts upon the marine environment.
- 1.5.2 A pipeline spur is required on the North Corridor, near to Micklehead Green (south of St Helens). This will connect to the pipeline network via the Clock Face HAGI, which may include a crossing of the River Mersey, where it is located within the MMO's jurisdiction. A second spur line is planned to cross the linear park between Walton Lock and the River Mersey, south of Warrington Town Centre.
- 1.5.3 As the Project will cross the River Mersey in both cases at depth, using a trenchless crossing method, consultation with the MMO has indicated that an exemption for a Marine Licence can be sought ahead of the DCO submission.

2. The Project

2.1 The Project

- 2.1.1 Cadent intends to make an application to the Secretary of State for a DCO for a hydrogen pipeline network and associated infrastructure. The pipeline will safely transport hydrogen gas which meets the low carbon standard set by the Government. Initially the primary source of low carbon hydrogen will be produced by Vertex Hydrogen at the Stanlow Manufacturing Complex near Ellesmere Port, which will be transported to various industrial organisations. Cadent is in active discussions with other hydrogen producers in relation to transporting additional hydrogen gas in the north west. Infrastructure to support such additional hydrogen sources would be consented separately.
- 2.1.2 The intention is for the Pipeline to also support hydrogen blending stations in Warburton and Partington (near Manchester) through transporting low carbon hydrogen to the existing gas network where it could be blended with methane gas to heat homes and businesses, following a Government decision which is yet to be made. The Project will also link to underground hydrogen storage facilities in Cheshire that will be used to balance supply and demand through the system.
- 2.1.3 The Project is expected to comprise the following elements:
- The construction, operation and maintenance of approximately 100 kilometres of new pipeline to distribute hydrogen;
 - Smaller pipelines (spurs) branching off from the main pipeline route to provide connections to specific industrial users in the region, identified as part of the Project;
 - Nine Hydrogen Above Ground Installations (HAGIs) and two Block Valve Installations (BVIs) required to control the flow and pressure of hydrogen at key points along the proposed pipeline;
 - Measures for avoiding, minimising and/or mitigating adverse environmental effects likely to arise in connection with the construction and operation of the Project;
 - Other related works, for example, temporary access roads, highway works, temporary works compounds, work sites and ancillary works; and
 - Compulsory acquisition of land, including interests in land, rights over land and imposition of restrictions, powers to override, suspend or extinguish rights over land and powers for the temporary use of land.
- 2.1.4 In a small number of locations options have been identified for the routing of the pipeline and for the location of two HAGIs. The preferred route and alternative options will be made clear on the consultation plans.

- 2.1.5 The proposed pipelines would vary in diameter between approximately six inches and 42 inches dependent on which route or spur they are on. Two main types of pipeline materials are expected to be used, Carbon Steel (CS) and Polyethylene (PE). The Pipeline would be buried along the entire route apart from the HAGIs and BVIs, which will include above ground infrastructure.
- 2.1.6 The pipeline will be located within a Limit of Deviation (LoD). This LoD will be subject to review and potential modification following stakeholder engagement, consultation, engineering, survey work and environmental assessment.
- 2.1.7 Non-statutory consultation (Stage One Consultation) was undertaken between 26 January 2022 and 11 March 2022 and an initial stage of statutory consultation (Stage Two) was undertaken between 12 September 2022 and 10 November 2022. At the Stage Two Consultation, we presented our updated plans in response to feedback received during the Stage One Consultation. Since Stage Two Consultation we have carried out further environmental, engineering and design work. Stage Three Consultation will therefore present our updated design. Key changes include:
- New options for the Higher Walton and Partington HAGI;
 - Updated Block Valve Installations; and
 - Modifications, additions and reductions to the area of the Draft Order Limits in response to feedback received at Stage Two Consultation and in subsequent discussions with interested parties.

3. The Planning Process

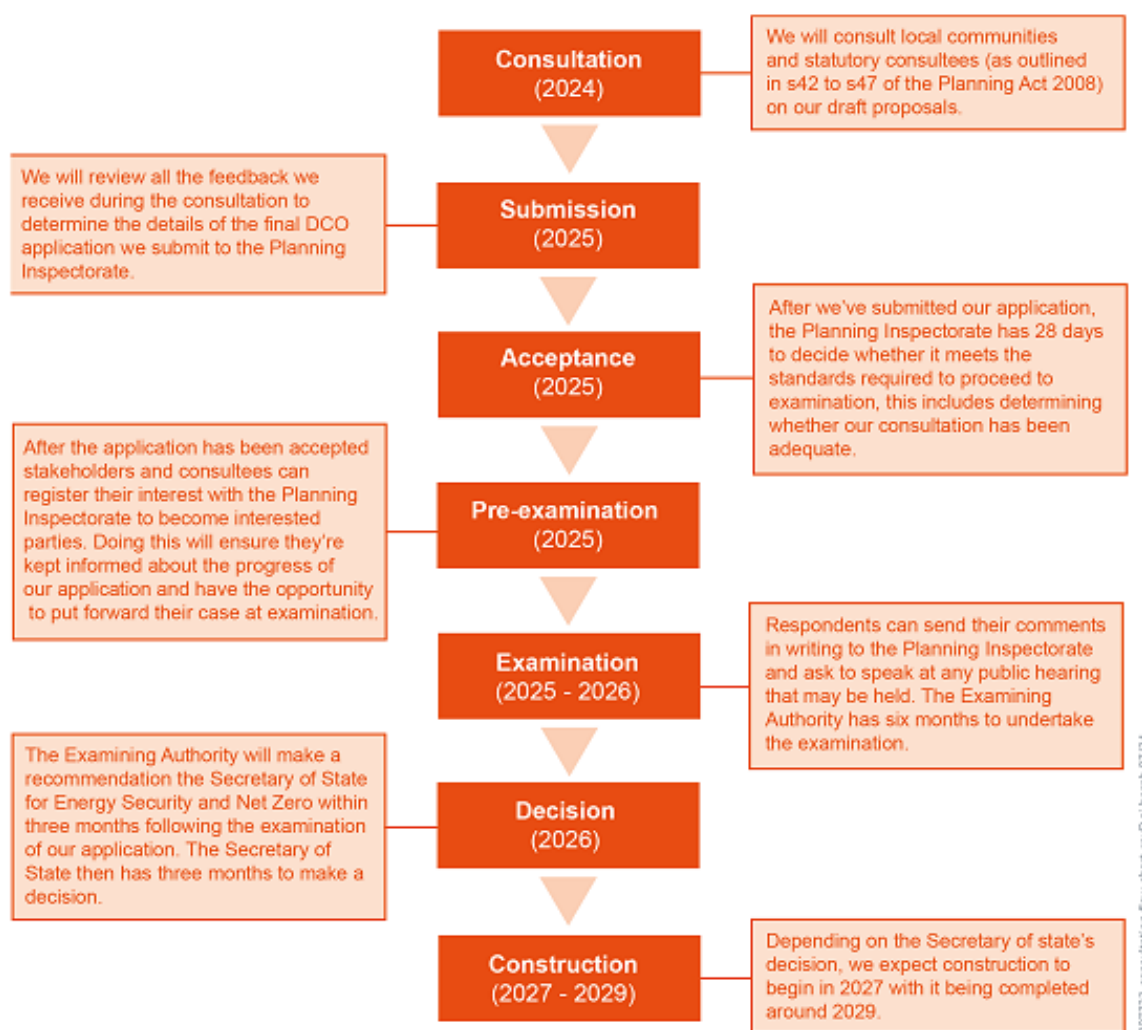
3.1 Development Consent Order

- 3.1.1 Cadent is a gas transporter for the purposes of the PA 2008. The Project would be defined as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) under Part 14(1)(f) ('the construction of a pipeline by a gas transporter') of the Planning Act 2008 (as amended) if it blended gas into the existing gas network. However, given ongoing regulatory uncertainty as to whether the Project will include blending into the gas network Cadent obtained a section 35 direction dated 05 July 2022 from the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) confirming that the Project (save for the pipeline spurs) is of national significance and is to be treated as development for which development consent is required.
- 3.1.2 The Applicant intends to submit an application for an order granting development consent for the Project pursuant to the Planning Act 2008; this application is likely to include the pipeline spurs as associated development. The application will comprise details of all development proposals and will be accompanied by an ES conforming to the EIA Regulations. A DCO granted by the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) is therefore required to authorise construction and operation of the Project. Before a DCO application is submitted, the proposed application must be consulted on and publicised in accordance with specific requirements contained in Sections 42 to 50 of the PA 2008, and as informed by the "Planning Act 2008: Pre-application stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects", published by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (2024).
- 3.1.3 After the DCO application has been submitted, the Planning Inspectorate (PINS), will decide on behalf of the Secretary of State for DESNZ if it can be accepted for examination. As part of this decision-making process, consideration will be given to any responses provided by local planning authorities on the adequacy of consultation undertaken by Cadent.
- 3.1.4 If accepted, PINS will examine the application on behalf of the Secretary of State for DESNZ via a specially appointed Examining Authority. Following the Examination, the Examining Authority will make a written recommendation to the Secretary of State for DESNZ, who will then decide whether or not to make the DCO.
- 3.1.5 The Energy National Policy Statements (NPS) which may be important and relevant (which, at the time of publication, are EN-1 and EN-4), as set out in the S35 Direction issued by BEIS. The relevant NPSs set out the Government's objectives and policies for energy-related nationally significant projects. Further information about these is available online¹.

¹ [National Policy Statements for energy infrastructure - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/policy-statements)

- 3.1.6 Non-statutory consultation (Stage One Consultation) was undertaken between 26 January 2022 and 11 March 2022 and a Consultation Feedback Report detailing this process is available on the project website.
- 3.1.7 An initial stage of statutory consultation (Stage Two) was undertaken between 12 September 2022 and 10 November 2022. A Consultation Summary Report of the key findings will be provided within the Stage Three consultation materials.
- 3.1.8 The Applicant proposes to undertake a further stage of statutory consultation (Stage Three). This will take place between 14 October 2024 and 19 November 2024, a period of five weeks. Further information is provided later in this report.
- 3.1.9 More details regarding the DCO process and Cadent's proposed timescales for the Project are set out at **Figure 3.1** below. Further information on the DCO process can be found on the National Infrastructure Planning website² or by telephoning the Planning Inspectorate on 0303 444 5000.

Figure 3.1 Project timeline



² <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk>

3.2 Environmental Information

- 3.2.1 The Project is classified as an ‘Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) development’ as defined by the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the ‘2017 EIA Regs’). This is because it falls within the provisions of Schedule 1(16)(a) as the pipeline for transporting hydrogen will have a diameter of more than 800 millimetres (circa 31 inches) and a length of more than 40km.
- 3.2.2 A Scoping Report and request for an EIA Scoping Opinion was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate on 26 January 2022 and a Scoping Opinion was received on 8 March 2022. An EIA is being undertaken to ensure the likely significant effects of the Project are understood and that the appropriate mitigation of those effects is put in place. The results of the EIA will be set out in an Environmental Statement that will accompany the DCO application.
- 3.2.3 In accordance with the requirements in Regulation 12 of the 2017 EIA Regs, the preliminary results of the EIA were presented in a ‘Preliminary Environmental Information Report’ (PEIR) during the statutory Stage Two Consultation. These were available to view on the project website, at consultation events and copies were available on request. Copies of the non-technical summary were also available at information points.
- 3.2.4 Stage Three will present initial drafts of the Environmental Statement (ES).

3.3 Legal Requirement to Consult

- 3.3.1 Sections 42 to 50 of the PA 2008 set out the requirements for statutory pre-application consultation in relation to a proposed application for a DCO.
- 3.3.2 Under the PA 2008, and as set out in the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedures) Regulations 2009 (2009 Regulations), Cadent is required to consult the following organisations and individuals about the proposed application:
- Prescribed statutory consultees (as set out in Schedule 1 of the 2009 Regulations);
 - Each local authority in whose area the Project is located and their neighbouring local authorities (as determined in accordance with Section 43 of the PA 2008);
 - Owners, occupiers and others with an interest in the land on which the Project is located (being Category 1 and Category 2 persons under Section 44 of the PA 2008);
 - Owners and occupiers of land who Cadent considers would or might be entitled to make certain types of land compensation claim as a result of the implementation of the DCO (being Category 3 persons determined in accordance with Section 44 (4) to (6) of the PA 2008); and
 - Local communities in the vicinity of the Project.

- 3.3.3 Section 47 of the PA 2008 requires Cadent to prepare a statement in the form of a SoCC setting out how it proposes to consult local communities in the vicinity of the Project about the proposed DCO application.
- 3.3.4 This SoCC has been prepared for the purposes of the Stage Three Consultation in accordance with the requirements of the PA 2008 and taking account of the Department for Levelling Up, Homes and Communities (DLUHC) guidance (as required by Section 50 of the PA 2008) and best practice.
- 3.3.5 Under Section 47 of the PA 2008 we are required to consult on the contents of the draft SoCC with host local authorities, i.e. local planning authorities, for the area within which the land for the Project is located.
- 3.3.6 Cadent is legally obliged to take account of the feedback received in relation to consultation on the draft SoCC prior to finalising and adopting the SoCC. The Stage Three Consultation must then be carried out in accordance with the proposals in the adopted SoCC.
- 3.3.7 The SoCC must be made available for inspection by the public in a convenient manner for people living in the vicinity of the Project.³ We are also required to publish a notice in a local newspaper which states where the SoCC may be inspected.
- 3.3.8 Section 48 of the PA 2008 requires the proposed application for development consent to be publicised in local and national newspapers and for Cadent to invite responses on the proposals. We are publishing the notice of the proposed application at the same time as undertaking our statutory consultation with local planning authorities, statutory consultees, owners and occupiers of land and the general public in respect of the Project.
- 3.3.9 Section 49 of the PA 2008 requires Cadent to have regard to the responses to consultation and publicity when deciding on the form and content of its application for the Project. Details of the regard given to consultation feedback will be presented in the Consultation Report, which accompanies the DCO application.

³ In line with changes to certain publicity requirements introduced by the Infrastructure Planning (Publication and Notification of Applications etc.). (Amendment) Regulations 2020, the SoCC will be made available for inspection online on the Project website.

4. Our Approach to Consultation

4.1 Purpose and Objectives

- 4.1.1 It is important to Cadent that our communities, the general public and other stakeholders continue to be involved in the development of the Project. Public consultation helps us to gather feedback and identify key issues of concern, enabling us to address these and improve our proposals. Public engagement will continue into the construction phase so that we can ensure communities are informed of our activities.
- 4.1.2 Our objectives for the Stage Three Consultation are to:
- Provide an update information on the Project.
 - Provide the community and other stakeholders with the opportunity to understand, comment on and influence the proposals, including the proposed pipeline route;
 - Provide clear and concise technical and non-technical information on the Project;
 - Help local people understand the potential nature and local impact of the Project;
 - Provide a range of opportunities for people to engage with the Project and provide comments and feedback; and
 - Ensure that comments and feedback have been taken into account in finalising the DCO application prior to its submission.
- 4.1.3 Given the scale and complexity of the Project and taking into account best practice plus DLUHC Guidance on pre-application consultation, we have previously undertaken a two-stage consultation.
- Stage One Consultation - Non-Statutory Consultation: The first non-statutory consultation (Stage One Consultation) on the emerging plans and preferred route corridors for the Project took place between 26 January 2022 and the 11 March 2022. The consultation was undertaken at a formative stage in the project development process, to provide consultees with an early opportunity to influence the proposals while options were still undergoing consideration.
 - Stage Two Consultation - Statutory Consultation: The second stage of consultation comprised statutory consultation on our proposed application in accordance with the requirements of the PA 2008. This took place between 12 September 2022 and 10 November 2022.
- 4.1.4 We are now proposing a further stage of statutory consultation. This will be known as Stage Three Consultation and this chapter of the SoCC outlines how we intend to carry out this consultation.

4.2 When will the Stage Three Consultation take place?

- 4.2.1 The Stage Three Consultation will take place between 14 October 2024 and 19 November 2024, for a period of five weeks. Dates of the Consultation Period will be made clear in the published notices.
- 4.2.2 All consultation responses should be received by 23:59 on 19 November 2024. The deadline will be made clear on the literature and other documents relating to the consultation. We cannot guarantee that responses received after the final date of the consultation will be taken into consideration.
- 4.2.3 We will closely monitor and consider government advice and guidance regarding the social distancing requirements, particularly in relation to public events and meetings. We will also be mindful of other external consultations taking place to minimise any potential confusion or consultation fatigue.

4.3 Who will we Consult?

- 4.3.1 The Stage Three Consultation will be open to anyone that has a view that they wish us to consider (as has been the case for the Stage One and Two Consultation).
- 4.3.2 A Consultation Zone (see **Appendix B**) has been developed based on the Project's initial route corridors which were used to inform the zone at Stage One and Two. We have then reviewed these initial route corridors to ensure that they extend a minimum of 300m from where we are considering locations for our above ground installations (HAGIS and BVIs). They have been extended where this was not the case. Similarly, for the pipeline and other temporary works including construction compounds and access points, the zone has been extended to ensure that it is a minimum of 200m from where we might choose to locate them.
- 4.3.3 Clearly the Project has evolved since Stage One and as such the approach to defining the Consultation Zone has been one of refinement such that those who would be unaffected by the Project are not directly consulted un-necessarily. Where a leg or corridor is removed therefore, those potentially affected by that element of the Project remain so that they are consulted at the subsequent consultation stage. This is to inform them of its removal. Once this exercise has been completed, they are then removed from any further rounds of consultation. As an example, those within the route corridor which was east of Northwich at Stage One were also consulted on its removal at Stage Two. They will not be consulted at Stage Three.
- 4.3.4 The exception to this rule is the Northwich Spur. This did form part of the Project at Stage Two, however following that consultation its removal was publicised by Cadent on 02 May 2023 with all those persons with interest in land in this area and registered website users in the spurline corridor notified individually. Because this notification has already taken place it is considered that it can be removed from the Stage Three Consultation Zone.
- 4.3.5 The Consultation Zone has been revised to reflect the updated project as described.

- 4.3.6 Cadent recognises that there may be interest in the Project beyond the Consultation Zone. The Project will therefore be promoted digitally and in print, with press releases and advertising, via media outlets whose reach extends beyond the Consultation Zone. All information will also be available on the Project's website to all consultees who wish to visit, unrestricted by geographic location.
- 4.3.7 As outlined in **Chapter 3** of this SoCC, at the same time as consulting the local community we will consult a wide range of statutory consultees on the Project, in accordance with Section 42 of the PA 2008. These include:
- Host and neighbouring local authorities;
 - Prescribed consultees (such as Natural England and Environment Agency); and
 - People with an interest in land that might be affected by the proposals.
- 4.3.8 A copy of the Section 48 notice will also be sent to all "consultation bodies" in accordance with Regulation 13 of the EIA Regulations.

Local Community

- 4.3.9 We will undertake the Stage Three Consultation with the local community. This will include those living in the vicinity of the Project, businesses and non-residential properties near the proposals. Cadent will also consult with local and special interest groups that may have an interest in the Project (see **Appendix C**).
- 4.3.10 We will design the consultation process and all associated materials and communications to be accessible and inclusive, enabling all sections of the community the opportunity to participate.
- 4.3.11 We understand that some individuals and groups in the community may be more challenging to reach and their views, therefore, harder to obtain. This understanding has underpinned our approach to consultation, including enquiring with these groups on additional activities that may be required. Further information on our approach to hard to reach/seldom heard groups is outlined in **Chapter 4.5** of this SoCC.

Wider Stakeholders

- 4.3.12 In addition to consultees prescribed under sections 42, 44 and 47 of the PA 2008, we have identified a number of individuals and organisations with whom we will voluntarily consult. These include:
- Bodies and individuals who are not defined as prescribed consultees in Schedule 1 of the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 (as amended). This includes local bodies and technical consultees such as local Wildlife Trust, the National Trust and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB); and
 - Ward Councillors, Town Councillors and MPs in relevant areas.

- 4.3.13 A proposed list of the wider stakeholders to be consulted will be continually reviewed alongside discussions with the local authorities with consideration of hard to reach/seldom-heard groups and consultation feedback. This is to ensure that anyone who requests to be included as a consultee has the same opportunity to provide feedback as those prescribed by legislation.

4.4 How we will consult

- 4.4.1 Cadent will consult using a variety of methods, designed to allow people to engage with the Project in a way that suits them and to make providing feedback to the Stage Three Consultation as easy and accessible as possible.

Project postcard

- 4.4.2 Before the 14th October 2024, a postcard notifying consultees about the consultation and that our design has been updated will be issued to residential and business addresses in the Consultation Zone, inviting them to take part.

Project website

- 4.4.3 The dedicated project website (www.hynethydrogenpipeline.co.uk) will continue to be the primary focal point to access information about the Project. It will be fully updated to include details of the Project and the Stage Three Consultation.
- 4.4.4 All information will be written in non-technical language, supplemented with visual materials, to help explain the Project. The website will make clear how people can take part in the consultation, including an updated interactive map presenting the latest project and online feedback form. Following feedback from the Stage Two Consultation, the interactive map will no longer be an accepted response channel. The proposed response channels for Stage Three Consultation are set out in **Chapter 5** of this SoCC.
- 4.4.5 Following the close of the Stage Three Consultation, the website will continue to provide a library of documents that were available during the consultation but clearly indicate that the period to provide feedback has closed.

Consultation documents

- 4.4.6 For the Stage Three Consultation, we will provide documents, maps and plans to detail the nature and location of the Project. These documents will be designed to assist those who wish to comment on the Project, and will include:
- Consultation Brochure - This non-technical document will summarise the elements of the Project, including maps, along with information on its potential effects. It will also provide a clear description of how people can provide feedback into the consultation;
 - Feedback Form – A feedback form will be provided for anyone wishing to respond, highlighting the specific matters we are seeking feedback on. The form will be capable of being completed by hand (and returnable using the ‘Freepost’ address) or online via the project website;

- An updated Design Evolution Report (DER) – Details of the routing process/options and design changes undertaken to date; and
- Environmental assessments – This will comprise the initial drafts of the Environmental Statement (ES) and supporting documentation which outline the assessments carried out to date, what we propose to construct and where, and the decisions made in developing our proposals. Supporting documentation will include a draft Biodiversity Mitigation Strategy, a draft Construction Traffic Management Plan, a draft Public Rights of Way Management Plan and a draft Outline Drainage Strategy.

4.4.7 All consultation documents will be available on the project website from 14th October 2024, with hard copies available on request from the project team and provided for reference at in-person events.

4.4.8 Requests for hard copies of the technical documents will be considered on a case-by-case basis. To cover printing costs a reasonable copying charge may apply (up to a maximum of £150 for one full suite of documents) to be paid for by the recipient. These can be requested using the contact details at the end of this SoCC.

In-person consultation events

4.4.9 We will hold eight consultation events in publicly accessible venues across the Project area. **Table 4.1** sets out the details of the planned in-person consultation events. The venues that have been selected have taken reasonable steps to provide access for disabled people and are known to local communities in the vicinity of the Project. Many of the venues were utilised for the Stage One and Stage Two Consultation events.

4.4.10 Members of the project team will be available to answer questions about the proposals, assist with the interpretation of materials and provide guidance on the completion of feedback forms.

4.4.11 If government advice or local circumstances change and it is necessary to adjust the approach to public exhibitions, we will engage with the host local authorities to agree suitable alternative arrangements, such as further digital consultation events/activities.

Table 4.1 In-person consultation events

Exhibition Venue	Date	Time	Address
Whitley Village Hall	Wednesday 16 October 2024	4 pm – 8 pm	Whitley Village Hall, Village Lane, Higher Whitley, Warrington, WA4 4EJ
High Leigh Village Hall	Thursday 17 October 2024	10 am – 1 pm	High Leigh Village Hall, West Lane, High Legh, Knutsford, Cheshire, WA16 6LR

Exhibition Venue	Date	Time	Address
Frodsham Community Centre	Thursday 17 October 2024	5 pm – 8 pm	Frodsham Community Centre, Fluin Lane, Frodsham, WA6 7QN
Thatto Heath Library	Friday 18 October 2024	12 pm – 4 pm	Thatto Heath Library, Thatto Heath Road, St Helens, Saint Helens, WA10 3QX
Milner Church Institute	Saturday 19 October 2024	10 am – 3 pm	The Milner Church Institute, Runcorn Road, Moore, Warrington, WA4 6TX
Westy Community Centre	Monday 21 October 2024	3 pm – 6 pm	Westy Community Centre, Bridgewater Avenue, Latchford East, Warrington, WA4 1TA
Fuse ROC	Wednesday 23 October 2024	10 am – 1 pm	The Fuse ROC Centre, Warburton Lane, Partington, Manchester, M31 4BU
Davenham Methodist Church	Thursday 24 October 2024	5:30 pm – 8:30 pm	Davenham Methodist Church, Firth Fields, Davenham, CW9 8JB

- 4.4.12 If the need arises to cancel the use of consultation event locations due to unforeseen circumstances, all consultation materials will remain available on the project website.
- 4.4.13 Should any in-person events need to be cancelled for any reason, the most appropriate mitigation would be identified on a case-by-case basis in consultation with the relevant Local Planning Authorities. This would typically involve expanding the number of online events, as an efficient way of replacing the in-person events.

Online virtual exhibition space and online events

- 4.4.14 In addition to the in-person consultation events, we will provide a virtual exhibition space, accessed via the project website. This will allow consultees to view and access the materials provided at the in-person exhibition events and submit their feedback.
- 4.4.15 To provide a further opportunity for those who may not be able to attend in person events but want to ask questions of the project team, the Project will also hold two online events. Consultees will be able to register to attend on the project website. These events will consist of a presentation from the project team and an opportunity to ask members of the project team questions.

4.4.16 Online events will take place on:

- Tuesday 7 November 2024 18:00 – 19:00
- Tuesday 12 November 18:00 – 19:00

Information points

4.4.17 During the consultation, hard copies of the Consultation Brochure, the non-technical summary of the draft Environmental Statement (ES), feedback forms and this SoCC will be available for inspection at the Information points listed in **Table 4.2**.

Table 4.2 Information points

Information points	Address	Opening Times
Chester Lane Community Centre Library	Four Acre Lane, St Helens, WA9 4DE	Monday: 10am to 5pm Tuesday: 10am to 5pm Wednesday: CLOSED Thursday & Friday: 10am to 5pm Saturday: CLOSED Sunday: CLOSED
Frodsham Library	Princeway, Frodsham, WA6 6RX	Monday to Friday: 9am to 6pm Saturday: 9:30am to 1pm Sunday: CLOSED
Grappenhall Library	Victoria Avenue, Grappenhall, Warrington WA4 2PE	Monday : 2pm to 4pm Tuesday: 1:30pm – 3:30pm Wednesday, Thursday & Saturday: 10am to 12pm Friday & Sunday: CLOSED
Knutsford Library	Toft Road, Knutsford, Cheshire, WA16 0PG	Monday: 10am to 5pm Tuesday: 10am to 6pm Wednesday: 10am to 1pm Thursday: 10am to 5pm Friday: 10am to 5pm Saturday: 9am to 1pm Sunday: CLOSED
Northwich Library⁴	Weaver Hall Museum 162 London Road, Northwich, CW9 8AB	Monday to Wednesday: 9am to 5pm Thursday and Friday: 9am to 7pm Saturday: 9am to 1pm Sunday: CLOSED

⁴ Temporary location of Northwich Library has opened at Weaver Hall Museum, while the library building on Witton Street is being renovated. Further information can be found here: [Northwich Library | Cheshire West and Chester Council](#)

Information points	Address	Opening Times
Partington Library	Central Road, Partington, Manchester M31 4FY	Monday: 10am to 5pm Tuesday: 10am to 5pm Wednesday: CLOSED Thursday: 10am to 5pm Friday: 10am to 5pm Saturday: 10am to 4pm Sunday: CLOSED
Runcorn Old Town Library	Granville Street, Runcorn WA7 1NE	Monday: 10am to 5pm Tuesday: 10am to 6pm Wednesday: CLOSED Thursday: 9.30am to 5pm Friday: 10am to 5pm Saturday: 10am to 2:30pm Sunday: CLOSED
St Helens Library	The World of Glass, Chalon Way East, St Helens WA10 1BX	Monday: 10am to 7pm Tuesday: 10am to 5pm Wednesday: 10am to 1pm Thursday: 10am to 5pm Friday: 10am to 5pm Saturday: 10am to 1pm Sunday: CLOSED
Thatto Heath Library	Thatto Heath Road, St Helens, WA10 3QX	Monday: 10am to 5pm Tuesday: 10am to 5pm Wednesday: CLOSED Thursday: 10am to 5pm Friday: 10am to 5pm Saturday: CLOSED Sunday: CLOSED
Weaverham Library	Russet Rd, Weaverham CW8 3HY	Monday: 9.30am to 1pm, 2pm to 7pm Tuesday: 9.30am to 1pm, 2pm to 5pm Wednesday: 9.30am to 1pm, 2pm to 5pm Thursday: CLOSED Friday: 9.30am to 1pm, 2pm to 7pm Saturday: 9.30am to 1pm Sunday: CLOSED
Warrington Library	Golden Square, Sankey Street, Warrington WA1 1TD	Monday & Tuesday: CLOSED Wednesday: 10am to 4:30pm Thursday: 10am to 4:30pm Friday: 10am to 4:30pm Saturday: 10am to 4:00pm Sunday: 11am to 3:00pm

4.4.18 If the need arises to close information points all consultation materials will remain available on the project website.

Publicity and advertising

4.4.19 In addition to the project postcard (see **paragraph 4.4.2**), we will undertake the following steps to promote the consultation widely so that people, as reasonably practicable, including those that visit the area but do not live within it, are aware of the consultation.

Publication of statutory notices

4.4.20 At the start of the Stage Three Consultation, Cadent will publish statutory notices (as outlined in **Chapter 3** of this SoCC) in local and national newspapers providing details about the consultation, as required by Section 47 and Section 48 of the PA 2008.

4.4.21 Statutory notices will be placed in:

- The Guardian – Monday 14 October 2024 (Section 47/ Section 48 combined)
- London Gazette - Monday 14 October 2024 (Section 47/ Section 48 combined)
- Manchester Evening News - Monday 14 October and Thursday 24 October (Section 47/ Section 48 combined)

Press releases

4.4.22 Three press releases will be issued to the local media during the consultation.

4.4.23 The first press release will be issued on 14 October 2024, announcing commencement of the consultation and set out key information on what the consultation will cover and how the local community can get involved and provide feedback.

4.4.24 The second press release will be issued on 6 November 2024. It will include raising awareness of the upcoming deadline for feedback and encourage the local community to take part.

4.4.25 A final press release will be issued on 20 November 2024. This will confirm that the consultation is now closed and will thank the local community for taking part.

Notification

4.4.26 Notification of the consultation will be issued by email before 14 October 2024 to all prescribed consultees (i.e. those identified in Schedule 1 of the 2009 Regulations) at the start of the consultation period alongside written notices, along with all stakeholders who have registered for email updates through the project website. This includes all host authorities.

Posters

- 4.4.27 Where an in-person consultation event venue is located outside of the Consultation Zone, posters advertising these events will be placed in the local area.

Press advertisements

- 4.4.28 An advertising campaign will take place across regional print media, online regional platforms, Google Ads and social media the week of consultation launch. This will include publishing adverts in local publications to raise awareness of the consultation and encourage people to provide feedback. The publications supporting advertisements are set out below in **Table 4.3**.

Table 4.3 Press advertisements

Publications
Knutsford Guardian (print and digital)
Northwich Guardian (print and digital)
Warrington Guardian (print and digital)
Liverpool Echo (online)
Chester Standard (print and digital)
St Helens Star (print and digital)
Reach plc publications (including Manchester Evening News and Liverpool Echo) (digital)

Project contact team

- 4.4.29 A dedicated contact number (0800 860 6261) will be provided for the duration of the Stage Three Consultation. This was previously used successfully during the Stage One and Stage Two Consultation. Contact details will be publicised in all consultation materials.
- 4.4.30 Consultees will be able to call the contact team to discuss the Project, leave a message or request hard copies of documents. We aim to respond to all queries relating to the consultation and the Project promptly and within a reasonable timeframe.
- 4.4.31 The dedicated contact email address previously available during the Stage One and Stage Two Consultation 'info@hynethydrogenpipeline.co.uk' will also be provided for the Stage Three Consultation for queries.

4.5 Hard to reach/Seldom heard groups

- 4.5.1 Cadent recognises that some consultees will be unable to participate in the consultation without assistance and will ensure that all members of the community can participate and are not disadvantaged in the consultation process. To enable this, we will:
- Ensure all exhibition venues selected have taken reasonable steps to provide access for disabled people;
 - Utilise local venues known to be used and accessible by hard-to-reach/seldom heard groups where possible;
 - Provide translation services where appropriate, on request; and
 - Publish the consultation brochure in large copy print, audio or Braille on request.
- 4.5.2 Cadent has also identified a number of gatekeeper organisations, that represent individuals or groups that may need additional activities to take part in the consultation (see **Appendix D**). Gatekeeper organisations were notified by email on 03 September 2024, in advance of the original consultation launch, to give sufficient time for these organisations to reach individuals and groups, and to define additional support required.

5. How to Respond to the Consultation

5.1 Response Channels

- 5.1.1 In accordance with Section 49 of the PA 2008, we are committed to recording, analysing and demonstrating how we will have regard to comments received during the Stage Three Consultation. There will be a number of ways for people to submit feedback during the Stage Three Consultation, all of which will be signposted in the relevant consultation materials. Feedback will be able to be submitted through:
- Online feedback form on the Project website;
 - Paper feedback forms available on request, at information points and at in-person events, and can be submitted via the Freepost address or by email;
 - Email: info@hynethydrogenpipeline.co.uk; and
 - Letter: FREEPOST HYNETH NWHP.
- 5.1.2 Following feedback from the Stage Two Consultation, the interactive map will no longer be an accepted response channel. Feedback received suggested the interactive map was not easy to use.
- 5.1.3 All responses received during the Stage Three Consultation period will be analysed and considered in the development of the DCO application for the Project. Verbal feedback will not be accepted except where necessary to recognise an individual's particular exceptional circumstances, which would otherwise stop their view from being considered. Feedback submitted on social media will not be accepted.
- 5.1.4 Any personal data received as part of the consultation or as part of the consultation process will be stored and protected as per relevant data protection requirements as set out in the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). No personal details will be used or published in any materials produced in support of the Project. Details of this information are provided on the project website at: <https://www.hynethydrogenpipeline.co.uk/privacy/>

6. What Happens Next

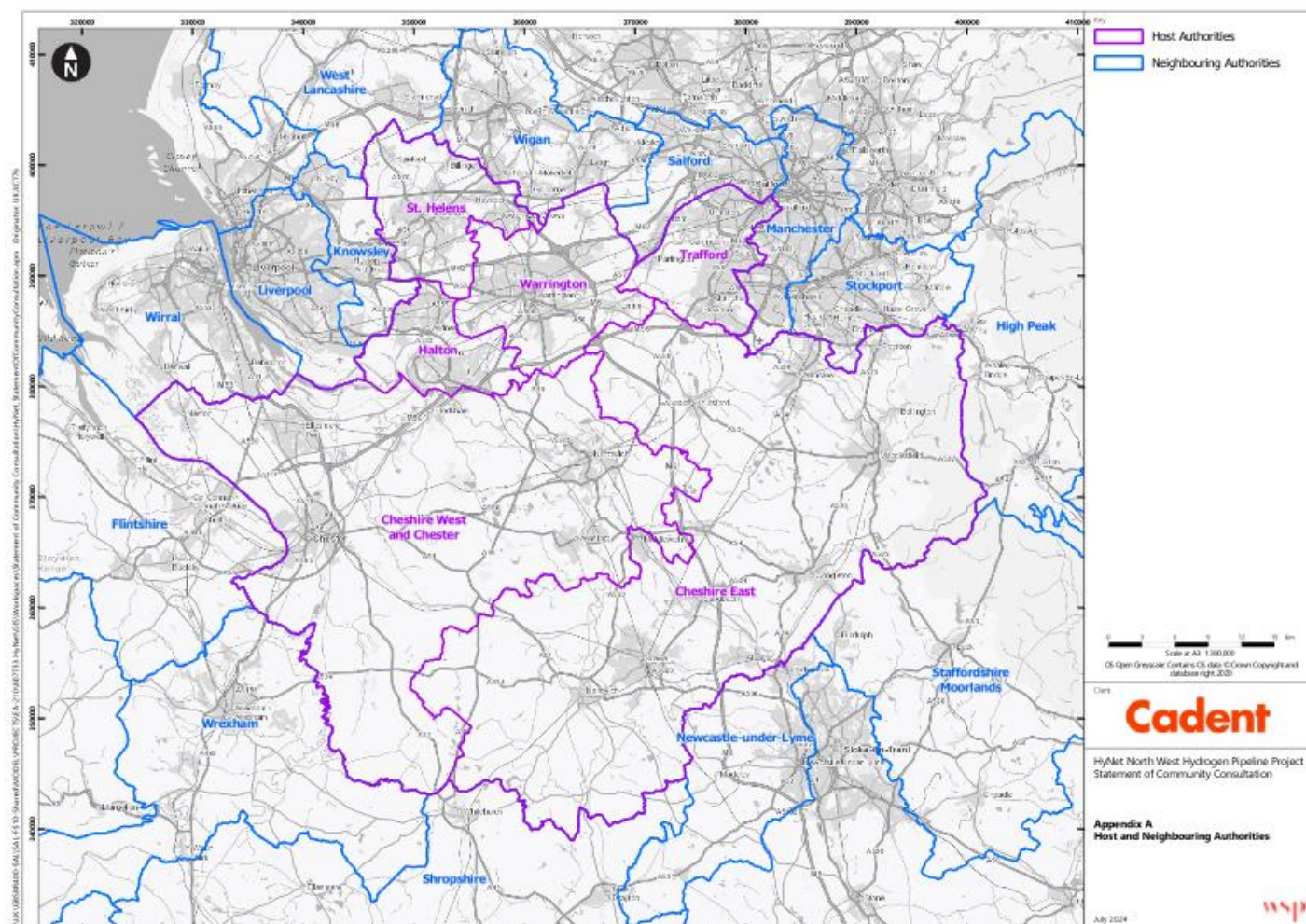
- 6.1.1 Once the Stage Three Consultation has closed, we will collate and analyse all the responses received. We will carefully consider all the issues raised and will take account of this feedback when finalising our DCO application.
- 6.1.2 A Consultation Report will be included in our DCO application, listing the issues raised in the consultation and our response to them. The responses received or extracts of them may be published with personal details redacted. The Consultation Report will be prepared in accordance with Section 37(3)(c) of the PA 2008 and other relevant legislation. It will report on the Stage One, Stage Two and Stage Three consultations to demonstrate how all statutory requirements relating to consultation and publicity have been met, how DLUHC Guidance has been taken into account, and how the feedback received has influenced the application.
- 6.1.3 If, because of the feedback received, the proposals for the Project change to the extent that it is necessary to undertake further geographically targeted engagement, this would be undertaken, where relevant, in accordance with the principles and methods set out in this SoCC. The timetable and programme for the engagement would be publicised in the affected area via methods judged to be most appropriate by Cadent.
- 6.1.4 We will continue to update the public and other stakeholders on our proposals at appropriate milestones throughout the Project, primarily through our project website and engagement activities.

7. Further Information

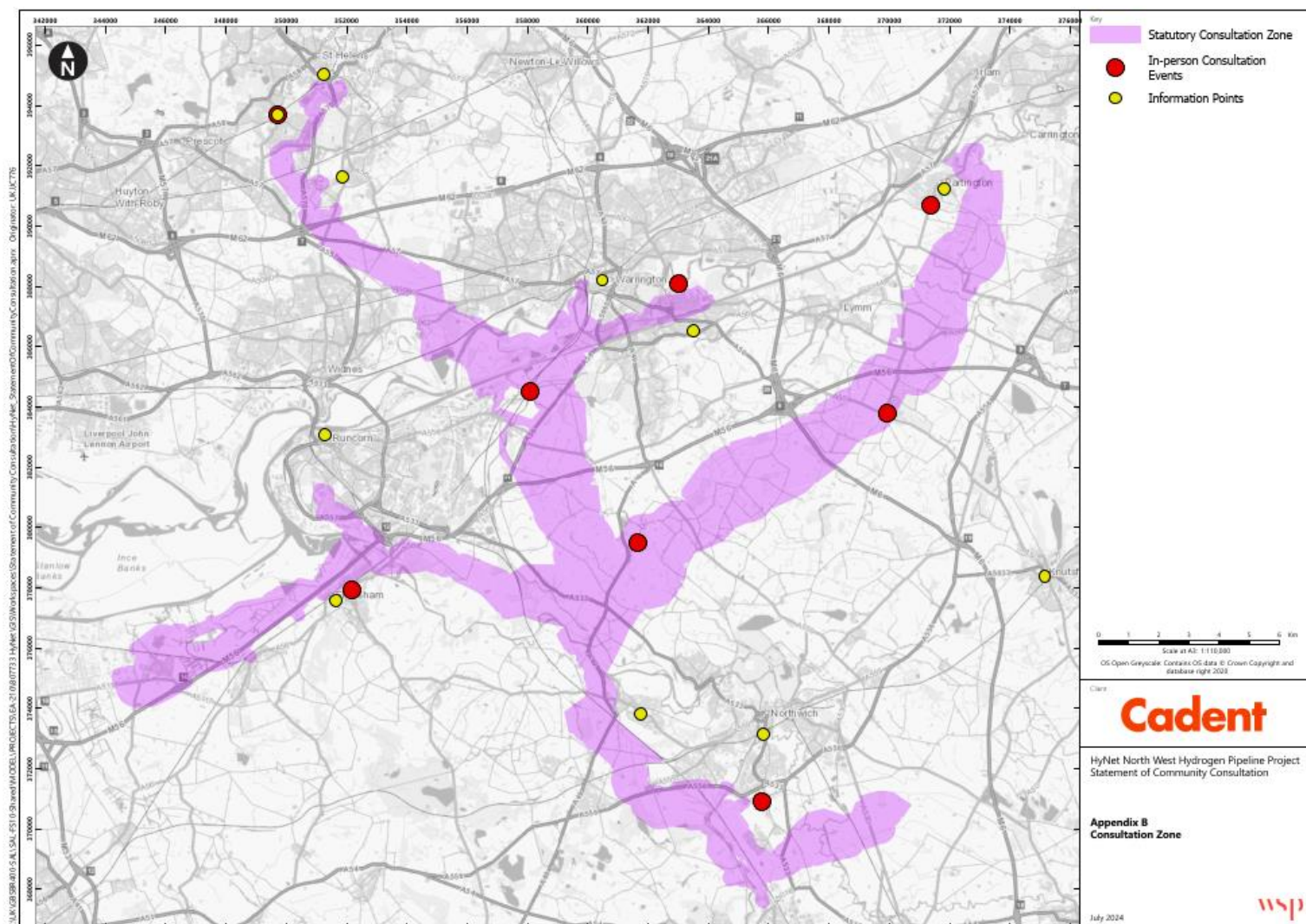
7.1.1 If you want to know more about the Project or would like to request copies of the Project's consultation documents, you can:

- Visit our website www.hynethydrogenpipeline.co.uk;
- Email us at info@hynethydrogenpipeline.co.uk; and
- Call our freephone number on 0800 860 6261 (open Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm).

Appendix A Project Host and Neighbouring Authorities



Appendix B Consultation Zone



Appendix C Local & Special Interest Groups

Local & Special Interest Groups
Active Travel England
Age UK Cheshire
Altrincham & Bowdon Civic Society
Bowdon Conservation Group
British Horse Society
British Trust for Ornithology
Canal and River Trust
Changing Lives in Cheshire
Enterprise Cheshire and Warrington
Environment & Transport, Warrington Borough Council
Cheshire Brine Subsidence Compensation Board
Cheshire Wildlife Trust
Country Landowners Association (CLA)
CPRE
Deafness Support Network
FOAM (Friend of Anderton and Marbury)
Friends of Carrington Moss
Greater Manchester Ecology Unit
Greater Manchester Local Record Centre
Groundwork Cheshire
Hale Civic Society
Little Bollington Parish Council
Liverpool City Region Combined Authority

Local & Special Interest Groups

Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service

Merseyside BioBank

Mid Cheshire Against HS2

National Farmers Union (NFU)

National Trust

North West Business Leadership Team

Northwich Rotary

Peak and Northern Footpaths Society

Positive Partington

Ramblers Association

rECOrd – Biodiversity Information Centre for Cheshire, Halton, Warrington and Wirral

RSPB

Sale Civic Society

Sustrans

The Mersey Forest

The Wirral and Cheshire Badger Group

Trafford Cycle Forum

Trans Pennine Trail

Warrington Borough Council's Employment Development Team

Warrington Borough Council Property Department

Wildlife Trust for Lancashire, Manchester and South Merseyside

Winnington Park Rec Club

Woodland Trust

Appendix D Hard to Reach/Seldom Heard Groups

Hard to Reach/Seldom Heard Groups
Age UK Mid Mersey Hubs
Age UK Trafford
Baobab
Brightlife Cheshire: By Older People for Older People
Buzz Youth Activity Group
Caring Connections
ChAPS
CHAWREC- Cheshire race and equality centre
Cheshire Community Foundation
Cheshire East Learning Disabilities Partnership Board
Cheshire West Community Access Team
Children in Care Council – Warrington
Community Integrated Care – Widnes
Cross Roads Together Young Carers Forum
CWAC - The Early Help Schools and Partnership Team
CWAC - Young People's Service
Cheshire West Specialist Learning Disability Service
Deafness Resource Centre
DM Disabled People's Panel
FitzRoy Trafford
Friends, families and travellers
Fusion Inclusion
Gypsy Traveller Liaison Officer

Hard to Reach/Seldom Heard Groups

Halton Adults with learning disabilities support
Halton Council - Post 16 Education and Training Team
Halton Council -Community and Day Centres
Halton OPEN
Halton Send Partnership
Halton Youth Cabinet
IMPACT Youth Council – Warrington
John Moores Foundation
Latchford Community Hub
Link Up Club
MacIntyre Great Communities
MALs Merseyside
Merseycare - Learning disability community team
Merseyside Polonia
Mission in the Economy
National Autistic Society – Cheshire
O.C.E.A.N - Organising and Caring for Ethnic and All Nations (Cheshire)
OLCOTWISH C.I.C (Cafe Laziz)
Park Farm Community Centre
Person Shaped Support (St Helens)
Refugee Action
RNIB North West
SEND youth club for young people with disabilities
Space4Autism
St Helens Council - 'Day Opportunities'
St Helens Council - 'The Visual Impairment Team'

Hard to Reach/Seldom Heard Groups

St Helens Youth Council

SUSO

The ADHD Foundation

The Cheshire East Local Offer

The SEND team

The Unity Centre

The Welcome - Connected Communities Centre

Trafford Deaf Partnership

Trafford Sensory Services Team for Adults

Umbrella Halton

Vee's Place

Vesta

Warrington Community Living Domiciliary/Supported Living Network

Warrington Joint Autism and Learning disability partnership

Warrington Speak Up

Warrington Voluntary Action

Warrington Youth Club

WECA- Warrington Ethnic Community Association

Welcome to SHADDA – the St Helens and District Dyslexia Association

Wishing Well Project

YAZ (Youth Action Zone) St Helens

HyNet North West Hydrogen Pipeline

Delivering clean growth

Cadent
Your Gas Network