

Chapter 4

Legislation and Planning Policy

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4. Legislation and Planning Policy

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 This chapter has been produced for the purpose of providing an overview of the legislative and policy context which is relevant to the Project and which informs the scope of the environmental assessment. The chapter is structured as follows:

- **Section 4.2** introduces the key environmental legislation relevant to the project and describes the legislative decision-making framework, as set out in the Planning Act 2008¹.
- **Section 4.3** provides an overview of the National Policy Statements (NPSs) which are relevant to the Project. This includes the Overarching NPS for Energy (EN-1)²; and the NPS for Natural Gas Supply Infrastructure and Gas and Oil Pipelines (EN-4)³.
- **Section 4.4** provides an overview of relevant policies contained within the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)⁴.
- **Section 4.5** identifies the relevant policy documents within the Development Plans and supporting policies for the six host Local Authority areas. **Appendix 4A** identifies the relevant policies from within these documents.
- **Section 4.6** provides an overview of recent UK Government climate change and energy policy which establishes clear objectives for decarbonising the power/industrial sectors and achieving the legally binding commitment to achieve 'net zero' in terms of greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

4.2 Legislative and Decision-making Framework

4.2.1 The legislative framework setting out the requirement for EIA is introduced in **Chapter 1 Section 1.2 The need for an Environmental Impact Assessment**. That legislation, like much of the environmental legislation relevant to the Project, derives from European law.

¹ HM Government. Planning Act 2008. Available from: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/29/contents> (Accessed June 2024).

² Overarching National Policy for Energy Infrastructure (EN-1) November 2023. DESNZ. Available from: <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/65bbfbdc709fe1000f637052/overarching-nps-for-energy-en1.pdf> (Accessed June 2024).

³ National Policy Statement for natural gas supply infrastructure and gas and oil pipelines (EN-4) November 2023. DESNZ. Available from: <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/65bbfbdc709fe1000f637052/overarching-nps-for-energy-en1.pdf> (Accessed June 2024).

⁴ DLUHC (2023) National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). Available from: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/65a11af7e8f5ec000f1f8c46/NPPF_December_2023.pdf (Accessed May 2024).

- 4.2.2 The retained EU Law (Revocation and Reform) Act 2023 (the REUL Act) provides UK Government with the power to revoke, amend or replace retained EU laws. The Act became law on 29 June 2023 and any European law remaining on the UK statute book became known as ‘assimilated law’ on 01 January 2024.
- 4.2.3 A summary of relevant environmental legislation is provided below. This summary is not exhaustive, and each individual environmental topic chapter describes the legislation, policy and guidance relevant to its assessment.
- 4.2.4 The following legislation is relevant to the Project and is referred to where required in **Chapters 5 to 18**:
- The 2008 Act;
 - The Infrastructure Planning (Applications Prescribed Forms and Procedure (APFP)) Regulations 2009⁵;
 - The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (as amended)⁶;
 - Air Quality (England) Regulations 2000⁷;
 - Climate Change Act 2008 (as amended)⁸
 - Control of Pollution Act 1974 (COPA) (as amended)⁹;
 - Environmental Protection Act 1990 (as amended)¹⁰;
 - Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017¹¹;
 - Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)¹²;

⁵ HM Government: The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009. SI 2009 No. 2264.
<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2009/2264/contents/made> (Accessed June 2024)

⁶ HM Government: The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017. SI 2017 No. 572.
<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2017/572/contents>

⁷ HM Government: The Air Quality (England) Regulations 2000. SI 2000 No. 928.
<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2000/928/contents/made> (Accessed June 2024)

⁸ HM Government: The Climate Change Act 2008. c27.
<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/27/contents> (Accessed June 2024)

⁹ HM Government: The Control of Pollution Act (CoPA) 1974. SI 1974 c.40.
<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1974/40> (Accessed June 2024)

¹⁰ HM Government: The Environmental Protection Act 1990. SI 1990 c.43.
<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1990/43/contents> (Accessed September 2024)

¹¹ HM Government: The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017. SI 2017 No. 1012. <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2017/1012/contents> (Accessed September 2024)

¹² HM Government: The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. SI 1981 c.69.
<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1981/69> (Accessed September 2024)

- The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 ('NERC') (as amended)¹³;
- Environment Act 2021¹⁴;
- Flood and Water Management Act 2010¹⁵;
- Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales) Regulations 2017¹⁶;
- The Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016 (as amended)¹⁷;
- The Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990¹⁸;
- The Water Resources Act 1991¹⁹;
- The Land Drainage Act 1991²⁰;
- The Water Act 2003²¹;
- Equality Act 2010²²; and
- Human Rights Act 1998²³.

¹³ HM Government: The Natural Environment and Communities Act 2006. SI 2006 c.16. <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2006/16/contents> (Accessed September 2024)

¹⁴ HM Government: The Environment Act 2021. C.30. <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2021/30/contents> (Accessed September 2024)

¹⁵ HM Government: The Flood and Water Management Act 2010. SI 2010 c.29. <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/29/contents> (Accessed September 2024)

¹⁶ HM Government: The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales) Regulations 2017. SI 2017 No. 407

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2017/407/contents> (Accessed September 2024)

¹⁷ HM Government: The Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016. SI 2016 No. 1154. <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2016/1154/contents> (Accessed September 2024)

¹⁸ HM Government: The Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 SI 1990 c.17. <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1990/9/contents> (Accessed September 2024)

¹⁹ HM Government: The Water Resource Act 1991. SI 1997 c.57. <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1991/57/contents> (Accessed September 2024)

²⁰ HM Government: The Land Drainage Act 1991. SI 1991 c.59. <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1991/59/contents> (Accessed September 2024)

²¹ HM Government: The Water Act 2003. SI 2003 c.37. <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2003/37/contents> (Accessed September 2024)

²² HM Government: The Equality Act 2010 C15. <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/15/contents> (Accessed September 2024)

²³ HM Government: The Human Rights Act C42 <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1998/42/contents> (Accessed September 2024)

Planning legislation

- 4.2.5 The Project would be defined as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) under Part 14(1)(f) ('the construction of a pipe-line by a gas transporter') of the Planning Act 2008¹ (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 existing gas network Cadent requested a Section 35 direction for the Project to be treated as development of national significance. The Secretary of State (SoS) responded to this request on 05 July 2022 to confirm that the Project should be dealt with as being nationally significant with the exception of the proposed pipeline spurs. It was considered that the pipeline spurs would not be nationally significant although it was recognised that they could be treated as associated development in any application made in respect of the Project under the Planning Act 2008.
- 4.2.6 The Applicant intends to submit an application for an order granting development consent (Development Consent Order (DCO)) under Section 37 of the Planning Act 2008 to the Secretary of State. The application will comprise details of all development proposals and will be accompanied by an Environmental Statement (ES) conforming to the EIA Regulations.
- 4.2.7 Section 115 (1) (b) of PA 2008 provides that, in addition to the development for which development consent is required under Part 3 of the Act ("the principal development"), consent may also be granted for associated development - development which is associated or has a direct relationship with the principal development, but should be subordinate to the principal development - the SoS must decide on a case by case basis whether development should be treated as associated development.
- 4.2.8 Where it is determined that subordinate development should be treated as associated development then Section 33 of PA 2008 states that other consents such as planning permission are not required.
- 4.2.9 National Policy Statements (NPS) set out the government's policy on nationally significant infrastructure development. They are the primary policy used by the SoS to examine and determine applications for NSIPs.
- 4.2.10 The following NPS is considered by the Applicant to be of relevance to the Project,:
- NPS for Overarching Energy (EN-1), November 2023.
- 4.2.11 The NPS for Oil and Gas Supply Infrastructure and Gas and Oil Pipelines (EN-4), November 2023 is also of relevance.
- 4.2.12 In making decisions on NSIPs, the PA 2008 (Section 105) states that the SoS must have regard to any Local Impact Report submitted by a relevant local authority, any relevant matters prescribed in relation to the NSIP and any other matters that the SoS thinks are both "important and relevant".

- 4.2.13 In the case of the Project, other matters that are important and applicable may include recent and relevant UK Government energy and climate change policy, including national infrastructure plans and assessments such as the Clean Growth Strategy,²⁴ the UK CCUS Deployment Pathway²⁵ and the Ten Point Plan²⁶ amongst others. These policy documents set out how the government will support decarbonising of the power and industrial sectors.
- 4.2.14 The government's target of achieving net zero in terms of greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 was enshrined in law in June 2019.
- 4.2.15 Other matters that the SoS thinks are both important and relevant may include the policies within the NPPF (December 2023) (paragraph 5 of the NPPF is clear that it does not contain specific policies for NSIPs but that the NPPF may be considered important and relevant) and local development plan documents.

4.3 National Policy Statements

- 4.3.1 The following are considered to be the NPSs relevant to the project.

NPS for Overarching Energy (EN-1), November 2023

- 4.3.2 NPS EN-1 sets out the Government's policy for the delivery of major energy infrastructure in England and Wales.
- 4.3.3 Paragraph 4.1.3 states that, given the level and urgency of need for infrastructure covered by Part 3 of NPS-EN1, the decision maker should start with a presumption in favour of granting consent to applications for energy NSIPs. The presumption applies unless any more specific and relevant policies set out in relevant NPSs clearly indicate that consent should be refused, subject to the provisions of the 2008 Act.
- 4.3.4 A summary of the 'applicant assessment' section of the relevant NPS EN-1 topics which have been scoped into this EIA and confirmation of how these have been addressed in the Draft ES and ultimately the final ES and in the DCO application documentation is set out in **Table 4.1** below. The submitted DCO application will include a Planning Statement and NPS Tracker. It is these documents that will demonstrate the Project's wider compliance with national policy.

²⁴ HM Government (2018) The Clean Growth Strategy. Available from <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5ad5f11ded915d32a3a70c03/clean-growth-strategy-correction-april-2018.pdf> (Accessed June 2024)

²⁵ HM Government (2018) The UK Carbon Capture Usage and Storage Deployment Pathway: An Action Plan. Available from <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/655e35b83e1c2e0011693715/uk-ccus-deployment-pathway-action-plan.pdf> (Accessed June 2024).

²⁶ HM Government (2020) The Ten Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution. Available from: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5fb5513de90e0720978b1a6f/10_POINT_PLAN_BOOKLET.pdf (Accessed May 2024).

Table 4.1 Relevant NPS EN-1 topics

Topic	Policy Summary	Relevant Draft ES Chapter/Draft DCO application document	How this will be addressed in the ES and, where relevant, the DCO application
Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1)			
5.2 Air Quality and Emissions	Where the project is likely to have an adverse impact on air quality, the applicant should undertake and include an assessment of impacts within the ES which should include existing air quality concentrations, any significant effects from the project, mitigation measures, emissions following mitigation and any potential eutrophication impacts. Applicants should consider the Environmental Targets (Fine Particulate Matter) (England) Regulations 2022 and associated Defra guidance. Applicant's assessments should also be consistent with updated Defra projections. Where a development is likely to breach statutory air quality limits, objectives or targets, the applicant should work with the relevant authorities to secure mitigation and ensure limits are not breached.	Chapter 9: Air Quality Chapter 5: Biodiversity Appendix 3B: Draft Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan Appendix 11B: Draft Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan	Chapter 9: Air Quality provides an assessment of the effects upon air quality as a result of the Project. It identifies mitigation and its findings are used in Chapter 5: Biodiversity to assess the potential for effects arising from deposition upon designated sites. The Draft Outline CEMP includes measures to minimise dust whilst the Draft Outline CTMP includes measures to reduce vehicle

Topic	Policy Summary	Relevant Draft ES Chapter/Draft DCO application document	How this will be addressed in the ES and, where relevant, the DCO application
5.4 Biodiversity and Geological Conservation	For developments subject to EIA, applicant should ensure the ES clearly sets out effects on internationally, nationally, and locally designated sites of ecological or geological conservation importance, as well as on protected species and on habitats and other species identified as being of principal importance. Applicants should show how the project has taken advantage of opportunities to conserve and enhance biodiversity and geological conservation interests. They should also consider wider ecosystem services and benefits of natural capital when designing enhancement measures. The design of energy NSIPs need to consider the movement of migratory species such as birds and fish, and their potential to interact with infrastructure. Energy projects also need to ensure vessels used by the project follow existing regulations and guidelines to manage ballast water. Habitat Regulations: The applicant should seek the advice of the appropriate SNCB and provide the SoS with sufficient information for them to determine whether an HRA is required. If an AA is required, the applicant must provide the SoS with sufficient information for them to perform the AA.	Chapter 5: Biodiversity and supporting appendices Appendix 5P: Habitats Regulation Assessment Screening	numbers associated with construction. Chapter 5: Biodiversity sets out effects upon designated sites. No international or nationally designated sites are directly affected by the Project. The Chapter also considers effects upon locally designated sites as well as protected species and important habitats. Through the routing of the pipeline and through the mitigation measures proposed ecological effects have been minimised where this is possible.

Topic	Policy Summary	Relevant Draft ES Chapter/Draft DCO application document	How this will be addressed in the ES and, where relevant, the DCO application
	During pre-application, if the SNCB indicate the project is like to adversely impact the integrity of habitat sites, the applicant must provide them sufficient information to assess a potential derogation under the Habitat Regulations. If the SNCB gives this indication at a later stage in the process, the applicant must provide this information as soon as reasonably possible and before the close of examination. This information must include an assessment of alternative solutions, a case for Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest (IROPI) and appropriate environmental compensation. Applicants should consider the need for compensation as early as possible in the design process. Applicants, at an early stage, should work closely with SNCB and Defra to develop a compensation plan for all impacted protected sites, and the relevant LPA regarding the proposed location of compensatory measures. Lastly, before submitting an application, applicants should seek the views of the SNCB and Defra/Welsh Government as to the suitability, securability and effectiveness of the compensation plan. Ancient woodland, ancient/veteran trees, and other irreplaceable habitats: Applicants should include measures to mitigate fully the direct and indirect effects of development on ancient woodland,	Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual	Amongst a number of ecological surveys reported within this Draft ES, the Applicant has undertaken aquatic surveys which include for migratory fish. Chapter 5: Biodiversity includes measures to minimise effects upon fish. HRA Screening was submitted to the SNCB and it has confirmed that appropriate assessment is required. The Applicant has updated the screening based upon comments received and will prepare the AA informed by a comprehensive suite of bird surveys for

Topic	Policy Summary	Relevant Draft ES Chapter/Draft DCO application document	How this will be addressed in the ES and, where relevant, the DCO application
	ancient and veteran trees or other irreplaceable habitats during both construction and operational phases. Protection and enhancement of habitats and species: Applicants should consider any reasonable opportunities to maximise the restoration, creation, and enhancement of wider biodiversity, and the protection and restoration of the ability of habitats to store or sequester carbon. Applicants should also give consideration to improvements to, and impacts on, habitats and species in, around and beyond developments, for wider ecosystem services and natural capital benefits, beyond those under protection and identified as being of principal importance.	Appendix 8C: Arboricultural Impact Assessment Chapter 13: Agriculture and Soil Resources Appendix 13A: Peat Desk Study and Appendix 13B: Targeted Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) and peat survey points	submission with the application. Ancient woodlands are avoided through the use of trenchless crossing techniques. Ancient and veteran trees have been identified and avoided where this is possible. The final ES will include the results of the full peat survey which will confirm areas of peat whilst a Peat Management Plan will provide measures to mitigate effects.
5.7 Dust, Odour, Artificial Light, Smoke, Steam,	The applicant should assess the potential for insect infestation and emissions of odour, dust, steam, smoke, and artificial light to have a detrimental impact on amenity, as part of the ES.	Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual	Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual assesses the effects of the Project

Topic	Policy Summary	Relevant Draft ES Chapter/Draft DCO application document	How this will be addressed in the ES and, where relevant, the DCO application
and Insect Infestation	The applicant is advised to consult the relevant local planning authority and, where appropriate, the EA about the scope and methodology of the assessment.	Outline Lighting Strategy Chapter 9: Air Quality Appendix 9D: Construction Dust Assessment	upon neighbouring land uses with regard to light. The Outline Lighting Strategy sets out the means by which effects will be mitigated. Chapter 9: Air Quality in association with the Outline CEMP identifies measures to control dust.
5.8 Flood Risk	A site-specific flood risk assessment should be provided for all energy projects in Flood Zones 2 and 3. In Flood Zone 1, an assessment should accompany all proposals involving: • sites of 1 hectare or more • land which has been identified by the EA or NRW as having critical drainage problems • land identified (for example in a local authority strategic flood risk assessment) as being at increased flood risk in future	Chapter 7: Water Environment Appendix 7F: FRA Appendix 7F, Annex 7F6: Outline Drainage Strategy	The Flood Risk Assessment has been developed in consultation with the EA. The results of the FRA have been used to inform the assessment of effects reported within ES Chapter 7: Water .

Topic	Policy Summary	Relevant Draft ES Chapter/Draft DCO application document	How this will be addressed in the ES and, where relevant, the DCO application
	- land that may be subject to other sources of flooding (for example surface water) - where the EA or NRW, Lead Local Flood Authority, Internal Drainage Board or other body have indicated that there may be drainage problems. This assessment should identify and assess the risks of all forms of flooding to and from the project and demonstrate how these flood risks will be managed, taking climate change into account. Applicants for projects which may be affected by, or may add to, flood risk should arrange pre-application discussions before the official pre-application stage of the NSIP process with the EA or NRW, and, where relevant, other bodies. These discussions should identify the likelihood and possible extent and nature of the flood risk, help scope the FRA, and identify the information that will be required by the SoS to reach a decision on the application when it is submitted. If the Environment Authority (EA) has reasonable concerns about the proposal on flood risk grounds, the applicant should discuss these concerns with the EA, and take steps to agree ways to satisfy the EA's concerns. Lastly, all projects should apply the Sequential Test to locating development within the site.		The Outline Drainage Strategy sets out the measures proposed to drain permanent infrastructure as well as areas used for construction.

Topic	Policy Summary	Relevant Draft ES Chapter/Draft DCO application document	How this will be addressed in the ES and, where relevant, the DCO application
5.9 Historic Environment	The applicant should undertake an assessment of any likely significant heritage impacts of the proposed development as part of the EIA, and describe these, along with how the mitigation hierarchy has been applied in the ES. Consideration of impacts on the wider historic environment, including cumulative impacts is required. Applicants should ensure that the impact of the proposal on the significance of any heritage assets be can sufficiently understood from the application and supporting documents. Studies will also be required on heritage assets affected by noise, vibration, light, and indirect impacts, and the extent of detail should be proportional to the significance of the asset affected. Careful consideration is required when preparing a scheme, on whether impacts will be direct or indirect, temporary or permanent. As part of the ES the applicant should describe the significance of the heritage assets affected by the proposed development; the level of detail provided should be proportionate to the importances of the asset. As a minimum the applicant should consult the relevant Historic Environment Record and assess the heritage assets themselves using expertise where necessary according to the proposed development's impact.	Chapter 6: Historic Environment	Chapter 6: Historic Environment presents the assessment of significance upon historic assets, including cumulative effects. Most effects are temporary (construction) effects. The assessment is informed by an assessment of the significance of the individual heritage asset. Information used includes the relevant Historic Environment Record, desk and field based archaeological survey.

Topic	Policy Summary	Relevant Draft ES Chapter/Draft DCO application document	How this will be addressed in the ES and, where relevant, the DCO application
	Where a site for development has the potential to include archaeological assets, the applicant should carry out a desk-based assessment. Applications that take account of the significance of assets affected, positively contribute towards the historic environment, and/or enhance or better reveal the significance of conservation areas and world heritage sites, will be treated favourably.		
5.10 Landscape and Visual	Applicants should carry out LVIA and report it in the ES, including cumulative effects. Assessments should refer to any landscape character assessments and associated studies, as well as any relevant any relevant policies or local development plan documents. The applicant should consider landscape and visual matters in the early stages of siting and design, where site choices and design principles are being established. The assessment should include the effects on landscape components and character during construction and operation and should address the landscape and visual effects of noise and light pollution, and other emissions, from construction and operation on residential amenity and sensitive receptors. Assessments should also include how these impacts will be minimised.	Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual Design Evolution Report 2024	Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual presents the LVIA for the Project. The baseline is characterised with reference to landscape character assessment relevant policy and literature. The Chapter explains how landscape and visual consideration have been used to inform the design of the Project.

Topic	Policy Summary	Relevant Draft ES Chapter/Draft DCO application document	How this will be addressed in the ES and, where relevant, the DCO application
	Applicants should consider how landscape can be enhanced using landscape management plans. When considering visual effects, it could be helpful to draw attention to examples of permitted infrastructure with a similar magnitude of impact on equally sensitive receptors.	Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP)	Information is also provided within the Design Evolution Report. The Outline LEMP forms the landscape management plan for the Project. When considering the potential visual effects from above ground infrastructure, consideration has been given to similar, existing infrastructure operated by the Applicant.
5.11 Land Use, Including Open Space, Green Infrastructure, and Green Belt	The ES should identify existing and proposed land uses nearby to the proposed development. It should also assess any effects the development may have on surrounding land or uses, including the preclusion of new development proposed in the development plan. The assessment should be proportionate to the scale of the proposed scheme.	Chapter 12: Ground Conditions Chapter 13: Agriculture and Soil Resources. Appendix 13B:	Chapter 14: Land Use considers the potential for significant effects upon land use. It is informed by the Mineral Resource Assessment. It also

Topic	Policy Summary	Relevant Draft ES Chapter/Draft DCO application document	How this will be addressed in the ES and, where relevant, the DCO application
	Applicants are encouraged to develop and implement a Soil Management Plan which could help minimise potential land contamination. The sustainable reuse of soils needs to be carefully considered in line with good practice guidance where large quantities of soils are surplus to requirements or are affected by contamination. Applications for development on previously developed land must consider land contamination risk. Applicants should ensure a site is suitable for its purposed use, taking into account ground conditions, land stability, and contamination. Applicants should use any up-to-date local authority assessment or, if there is none, provide an independent assessment to show whether the existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land is surplus to requirements. Applicants should seek to minimise impacts on best and most versatile agricultural land, preferably using land of lower quality. Applicants should also identify any effects on soil health and seek to minimise any impacts. Developments should enhance the natural and local environment and prevent unacceptable risk from soil, air, water, or noise pollution or land instability.	Targeted Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) and peat survey points Chapter 14: Land Use, Appendix 14A: Mineral Resource Assessment Chapter 15: People and Communities Design Evolution Report 2024 including Green Belt Assessment	considers the cumulative effects upon land use. The design evolution of the Project has been informed by the presence of development plan proposals, most notably land allocations and changes have been made to the route of the pipeline as local development plans have matured. The location of above ground infrastructure has been informed by a Green Belt Assessment which is appended to the Design Evolution Report. When submitted for examination Chapter

Topic	Policy Summary	Relevant Draft ES Chapter/Draft DCO application document	How this will be addressed in the ES and, where relevant, the DCO application
			13: Agriculture and Soil Resource will include an Outline Soil Management Plan whilst measures to mitigate land contamination are also included within Chapter 12: Ground Conditions. The Applicant has begun an Agricultural Land Classification survey with initial findings provided in Appendix 13B. The final survey results and assessment will be reported within Chapter 13 submitted for examination. This will identify areas of best and most versatile agricultural land.

Topic	Policy Summary	Relevant Draft ES Chapter/Draft DCO application document	How this will be addressed in the ES and, where relevant, the DCO application
5.12 Noise and Vibration	Where noise impacts are likely to arise from the proposed development, the applicant should include: • A description of noise generating aspects of the proposal; • Identification of noise sensitive receptors possibly affected; • The characteristics of the existing noise environment; • A prediction of how the noise environment will change – in the short and long term, and throughout the day; • An assessment of effects on noise sensitive receptors; • An assessment of underwater or subterranean noise, where applicable; and • Step taken to mitigate adverse effects. The nature and extent of the noise assessment should be proportionate to the likely noise impact. Applicants should consider the noise impact of ancillary activities associated with the development. Applicants should also assess operational noise in respect to human receptors, according to the relevant British Standards. The applicant should consult the EA and/or the SNCB, and other relevant bodies, such the MMO or NRW, as necessary, and in particular regarding assessment of noise on protected species or other wildlife. The results of any noise surveys and predictions may inform the ecological assessment. The	Chapter 10: Noise and Vibration Appendix 3B: Draft Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan	Chapter 10: Noise and Vibration characterises the existing noise environment and predicts noise levels resulting from the Project. In part, this prediction is informed by a noise survey of similar infrastructure operated by the Applicant. The assessment considers construction and operational noise and is informed by other studies such as the traffic and transport assessment. Chapter 10: Noise and Vibration identifies and characterises the potential for significant

Topic	Policy Summary	Relevant Draft ES Chapter/Draft DCO application document	How this will be addressed in the ES and, where relevant, the DCO application
	seasonality of potentially affected species in nearby sites may also need to be considered. In the marine environment, applicants should consider noise impacts on protected species, as well as other noise sensitive receptors, both at the individual project level and in-combination with other marine activities. Applicants should submit a detailed impact assessment and mitigation plan as part of any development plan, including the use of noise mitigation and noise abatement technologies during construction and operation.		effects and the mitigation embedded into the design. The Applicant has undertaken regular consultation with the EA and Natural England. The Outline CEMP sets out measures to control noise during construction. It will be supplemented at submission with an Outline Construction Noise and Vibration Plan.
5.13 Socio-Economic Impacts	Where the project is likely to have socio-economic impacts at local or regional levels, the applicant should undertake and include an assessment of these impacts in the ES.	Chapter 15: People and Communities	Chapter 15: People and Communities presents an assessment of likely socio-economic impacts. It is informed

Topic	Policy Summary	Relevant Draft ES Chapter/Draft DCO application document	How this will be addressed in the ES and, where relevant, the DCO application
	Applicants are encouraged to engage with local authorities during early stages of project development to gain an understanding of local and regional issues/opportunities. The applicant's assessment should consider all relevant socio-economic impacts, including cumulative effects. Applicants should describe the existing socio-economic conditions in the areas surrounding the proposed development and should also refer to how the development's socio-economic impacts correlate with local planning policies. Applicants are encouraged to demonstrate that local suppliers have been considered in any supply chain, and, where possible, develop accommodation strategies which include the potential need to provide temporary accommodation for construction workers.		by a detailed baseline and considers cumulative effects where these are considered relevant to the topic. The Project's socio-economic impacts correlated with local planning policies will be presented within the Planning Statement prepared to accompany the application. The Applicant intends to establish mechanisms to promote the use of local supply chains whilst the scale of construction is such that the associated workforce is unlikely to require temporary

Topic	Policy Summary	Relevant Draft ES Chapter/Draft DCO application document	How this will be addressed in the ES and, where relevant, the DCO application
			accommodation in significant numbers.
5.14 Traffic and Transport	If a project is likely to have significant transport implications, the applicant's ES should include a transport appraisal. The assessment should also consider any possible disruption to services and infrastructure. Applicants should consult with National Highways and Highway Authorities on the assessment, this is a requirement for NSIP projects where the strategic road network or local road network. The applicant should prepare a travel plan including demand management and monitoring measures to mitigate transport impacts. The applicant should also provide details of proposed measures to improve access by active, public and shared transport. If additional transport infrastructure is needed or proposed, it should always include good quality walking, wheeling and cycle routes, and associated facilities. Lastly, Applicants should discuss with network providers the possibility of co-funding by government for any third-party benefits.	Chapter 11: Traffic and Transport Appendix 11B: Draft Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) Appendix 11C: Draft Outline Public Rights of Way Management Plan (PRoWMP)	Chapter 11: Traffic and Transport presents the Applicant's transport appraisal. The Outline CTMP and Outline PRoWMP identify measures to prevent disruption to existing transport infrastructure as a result of vehicle movements associated with the construction of the Project. The Applicant has discussed its approach to PRoW management with the local highway authorities.

Topic	Policy Summary	Relevant Draft ES Chapter/Draft DCO application document	How this will be addressed in the ES and, where relevant, the DCO application
			Travel Plans are longer-term strategies to encourage the use of more sustainable forms of transport. Only a small number of vehicles associated with the operation phase of the Project is predicted, therefore the operational phase is scoped out of the Environmental Statement with the Secretary of State's agreement. The Project does not require additional transport infrastructure.
5.16 Water Quality and Resources	Where the project is likely to have effects on the water environment, the applicant should undertake an assessment of the existing status of, and impacts of the proposed project on, water quality, water resources and physical characteristics of the water environment, and how this might change due to the impact	Chapter 7: Water Environment	Chapter 7: Water considers the effects of the Project upon water quality, resources and the

Topic	Policy Summary	Relevant Draft ES Chapter/Draft DCO application document	How this will be addressed in the ES and, where relevant, the DCO application
	of climate change on rainfall patterns and consequently water availability across the water environment, as part of the ES or equivalent. The applicant should make early contact with the relevant regulators, including the local authority, the Environment Agency and Marine Management Organisation, where appropriate, for relevant licensing and environmental permitting requirements. Applicants are encouraged to, where possible, manage surface water during construction by treating surface water runoff from exposed topsoil prior to discharging and to limit the discharge of suspended solids. Applicants are also encouraged to consider protective measures to control the risk of pollution to groundwater beyond those outlined in River Basin Management Plans and Groundwater Protection Zones. The ES should describe: • The existing quality, and the impact on waters affected by the project; • Existing water resources and the impact of the project on them; • Existing physical characteristics of the water environment, and any impact or physical alteration to it; • Any impacts on water bodies or protected areas under the Water Environment Regulations 2017 and SPZs;	Appendix 7F: Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) Appendix 7F, Annex 7F6: Outline Drainage Strategy Appendix 3B: Draft Outline CEMP	wider water environment, including SPZ. It considers the potential for an evolving baseline as a result of climate change. Cumulative effects are considered. The potential for flooding is addressed in Appendix 7F FRA. During the evolution of the Project, the Applicant has been in contact with the EA to discuss permitting. The Outline Drainage Strategy establishes the approaches proposed to drain the Project during both the construction and operational phases.

Topic	Policy Summary	Relevant Draft ES Chapter/Draft DCO application document	How this will be addressed in the ES and, where relevant, the DCO application
	• How climate change could impact any of the above in the future; and • Any cumulative effects.		

NPS for Oil and Gas Supply Infrastructure and Gas and Oil Pipelines (EN-4), November 2023

- 4.3.5 Paragraph 1.6.2 of NPS EN-4 states that it only has effect for those nationally significant infrastructure pipelines which transport natural gas or oil. It states, however, that information in the document may be useful in identifying impacts to be considered in applications for pipelines intended to transport other substances and in this context refers specifically at paragraph 1.6.6 to hydrogen infrastructure. A summary of the relevant NPS EN-4 topics and confirmation of how these have been addressed in the ES and in the DCO application is therefore provided in **Table 4.2**.

Table 4.2 Relevant NPS EN-4 topics

Topic	Policy Summary	Relevant Draft ES Chapter/Draft DCO application document	How this will be addressed in the ES and where relevant the DCO application.
National Policy Statement for Oil and Gas Supply Infrastructure and Gas and Oil Pipelines (EN-4)			
2.2 Factors influencing site selection and design	The government does not seek to direct applicants to particular sites for gas supply infrastructure and oil and gas pipelines.	Chapter 2: The Project Design Evolution Report	The approach to site selection is summarised within ES Chapter 2: The Project with further information, including the routing methodology contained within the DER.
2.3 Climate change adaptation	Attention should be paid to Sections 4.10, 5.6 (Coastal Change) and 5.8 (Flood Risk) of EN-1. Applicants should set out how the proposal would be resilient to: - Increasing risk of flooding; - Effects of rising sea levels and increased risk of storm surge; - Higher temperatures; - Increased risk of earth movement, coastal erosion, or subsidence from increased risk of flooding and drought; and - Any other increased risks identified in the applicant's assessment.	Chapter 7: Water Environment Appendix 7F FRA Chapter 18: Climate Change Resilience	An FRA forms an appendix to Chapter 7: Water Environment. Chapter 18: Climate Change Resilience explains the means by which the Project will be resilient to climate change.

Topic	Policy Summary	Relevant Draft ES Chapter/Draft DCO application document	How this will be addressed in the ES and where relevant the DCO application.
	The resilience of projects should be assessed in the ES accompanying an application.		
2.4 Consideration of 'good design' for energy infrastructure	Applicants should consider the criteria for good design set out in EN-1 Section 4.7 at an early stage when developing projects.	Design Evolution Report 2024	The DER sets out the methodology for route selection.
2.5 Hazardous substances	Attention should be paid to Section 4.14 of EN-1. All establishments wishing to hold stocks of certain hazardous substances, which include oil and gas, above a threshold quantity must consult the Hazardous Substances Authority (HSA, and the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) at pre-application stage.	Chapter 12: Ground Conditions Chapter 16: Major Accidents and Disasters	Chapter 12: Ground Conditions explains how the potential for effects upon existing ground conditions as a result of the Project have been identified and will be mitigated. Chapter 16: MADs summarises the consultation held with the HSE at the pre-application stage.

Topic	Policy Summary	Relevant Draft ES Chapter/Draft DCO application document	How this will be addressed in the ES and where relevant the DCO application.
2.6 Control of major accident hazards	The Control of Major Accident Hazards (COMAH) Regulations 2015 (COMAH) Regulations apply to onshore underground gas storage facilities, LNG import facilities and gas reception facilities. Underground storage sites will come within the scope of COMAH if the quantity of gas stored meets or exceeds the thresholds in Schedule 1, Part 2 of the Regulations – 50 tonnes (lower tier) and 200 tonnes (top tier). Attention should be paid to Section 4.13 of EN-1.	Chapter 16: Major Accidents and Disasters	The Project does not produce or store gas. However, Chapter 16: MADs explains that the Project will not be subject to COMAH regulations.
2.20 Natural gas and oil pipelines	The gas and oil pipeline networks extend between storage and distribution facilities, and provide an important transport mechanism for natural gas, petrol, gas oil, heating oil, diesel, and aviation fuel. Nationally significant pipelines are those described in Section 1.6 of this NPS. Many of the generic impacts set out in EN-1 are relevant to the consideration of applications for gas and oil pipelines. The applicant must submit an ES including an assessment of the impact of the project (see Section 4.3 of EN-1).	The Draft Environmental Statement	The Applicant will submit an Environmental Statement.
2.21 Natural gas and oil pipelines:	Factors Influencing Site Selection When designing the route of new pipelines applicants should research relevant constraints including proximity of existing and	Chapter 2: The Project	Chapter 2: The Project sets out the alternatives considered when developing

Topic	Policy Summary	Relevant Draft ES Chapter/Draft DCO application document	How this will be addressed in the ES and where relevant the DCO application.
Applicant assessment	planned residential properties, schools and hospitals, railway crossings, major road crossings, below surface usage and proximity to environmentally sensitive areas, main river and watercourse crossings. Applicants should be aware of plans and strategies that may impact upon these constraints, such as water level management plans in areas with peat soils. Applicants should undertake desktop studies in the first instance, followed up by consulting the appropriate authority, operator, or conservation body if necessary. Applicants should undertake desktop studies to identify historic or current mine workings, underground cavities serving industrial usage, the nature of any made ground, waste sites, unexploded ordnance, utility services and any other below surface usage when assessing routes for a pipeline. When choosing a pipeline route, applicants should seek to avoid or minimise adverse effects from usage below the surface. Additional study may also be required to support environmental assessments depending on evidence available and findings of desktop studies. Applicants may need to remove and dispose of contaminated material. When considering the route of the pipeline, further consideration to the potential maintenance of the pipeline should also be factored in and the impacts that maintenance or additional protection of the pipeline may have.	Chapter: 12 Ground Conditions Design Evolution Report 2024	the Project with additional information on the routing methodology, including constraints and choices made is contained within the DER. Chapter 12: Ground Conditions considers areas of historic mining, including the mining of salt which is supported by a separate Halite Assessment. Chapter 12: Ground Conditions explains how known and unknown contamination will be identified and handled.

Topic	Policy Summary	Relevant Draft ES Chapter/Draft DCO application document	How this will be addressed in the ES and where relevant the DCO application.
	Pipeline Safety The principal legislation governing the safety of pipelines (the Pipelines Safety Regulations 1996) requires that pipelines are designed, constructed and operated so that the risks are as low as is reasonably practicable (ALARP). These regulations are enforced by the HSE, and pipeline operators are required to provide certain information to the HSE at various stage of the pipeline's lifecycle. HSE also expects pipeline operators to apply relevant good practice as a minimum. In the pipeline industry there are well established standards, covering design, operation and maintenance of major accident hazard pipelines which can be used to demonstrate risks are ALARP. If a pipeline operator wishes to use other standards, recommendations, or guidance then this should be discussed with the HSE and may be acceptable to the HSE, provided that the pipeline operator can demonstrate that they achieve at least the equivalent levels of safety. A gap analysis should be undertaken to confirm this. <u>Impacts:</u> Noise and Vibration Attention should be paid to Section 5.12 of EN-1.	Chapter 16: Major Accidents and Hazards	Chapter 2: The Project explains the Applicant's proposals for future maintenance. Chapter 16: MADS presents the safety legislation applicable to the Project.

Topic	Policy Summary	Relevant Draft ES Chapter/Draft DCO application document	How this will be addressed in the ES and where relevant the DCO application.
	Applicants need to identify all the noise and vibration sensitive receptors likely to be affected during the pre-construction and construction phases. Applicants should also consider any associated pipeline maintenance or protection that may be additionally required. As well as noise and vibration receptors, applicants also need to assess all potential noise and vibration impacts, such as those from HGV movements, site clearance, tunnelling, and pipelaying and welding, etc. The commissioning of a new pipeline can involve extensive periods of drying after hydrotesting, using air compressors, and noise mitigation may be required for this type of activity. Above ground installations associated with new gas pipelines should be located outside of protected landscape areas wherever possible. Biodiversity, Landscape and Visual Attention should be paid to Sections 4.3.15, 5.4 and 5.10 of EN-1. The ES must include an assessment of the biodiversity and landscape and visual effects of the proposed route and of the main alternative routes considered. The applications should also include proposals for reinstating the land to its original state, as close as possible. Where it is unlikely to be possible to restore the landscape to its original state, the applicant should	Chapter 10: Noise and Vibration Appendix 3B: Draft Outline CEMP	Chapter 10: Noise and Vibration presents the Applicant's noise assessment including mitigation to reduce the potential for significant effects. It is supported by the Outline CEMP which sets out the management measures proposed by the Applicant to reduce construction noise.
		Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual	

Topic	Policy Summary	Relevant Draft ES Chapter/Draft DCO application document	How this will be addressed in the ES and where relevant the DCO application.
	set out measures to avoid, mitigate, or employ other landscape measures to compensate for, any adverse effect on the landscape. Requirements to be included within the Marine Licence¹⁴ (detailed in paragraph 2.3.16 – 2.3.24 of EN-3) should also be duly considered for infrastructures within coastal and marine zones. Water Quality and Resources Attention should be paid to Sections 4.12 and 5.16 on EN-1. Where a project is likely to give rise of effects on water quality or water resources, the applicant should provide an assessment on the impacts in line with Section 5.16 of EN-1 within the ES. Impacts during construction should be avoided as much as possible through route selection or mitigation, and ground should be reinstated after construction. Soil and Geology	Chapter 5: Biodiversity Outline Biodiversity Mitigation Strategy Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan. Appendix 3B: Draft Outline CEMP Chapter 7: Water Environment Appendix 7F, Annex 7F6: Outline Drainage Strategy	The landscape and visual effects arising from the construction (and operation of the HAGIs) of the Project are considered within Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual. Similarly, Chapter 5: Biodiversity considers the effects during both construction and operation upon biodiversity. Landscape and ecological effects and how they will be managed are set out within the Outline Biodiversity Mitigation Strategy and Outline CEMP. The Outline LEMP provides details of the measures proposed with regards to landscaping, habitat creation and reinstatement works, together with the monitoring and management of these measures.

Topic	Policy Summary	Relevant Draft ES Chapter/Draft DCO application document	How this will be addressed in the ES and where relevant the DCO application.
	It is important for applicant to understand the soil types and the nature of the underlying strata, as well as the organic content of different soils. Applicants must assess the stability of the ground conditions associated with the pipeline route and incorporate the findings of that assessment in the ES. It may be necessary to sink new boreholes along the preferred route to better understand the ground conditions present. The assessment should cover the options considered for installing the pipeline and weigh up the impacts of the means installation. Where the applicant proposes to use horizontal directional drilling (HDD) as the means of installing a pipeline under a National or International Site and mitigating the impacts, the assessment should cover whether the geological conditions are suitable for HDD. Where applicants are considering a pipeline through a designated area of geological/geomorphological interest, they should submit details of alternative routes, which bypass the designated area or minimise the length of pipeline through the area. Lastly, applicants should consult with the relevant statutory consultee at an early stage.	Appendix 3B: Draft Outline CEMP Chapter 13: Agriculture and Soil Resources. Appendix 13B: Targeted Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) and peat survey points Chapter 12: Ground Conditions	Chapter 7: Water considers the effects upon the water environment. Mitigation is presented within this chapter with additional construction mitigation presented within the Outline CEMP. The Outline Drainage Strategy demonstrates that the Project can be satisfactorily drained. An Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) survey is underway and preliminary results are presented in Appendix 13B. The full survey results will be used to inform the preparation of an Outline Soil Management Plan which will be submitted with the application. Where trenchless crossings are proposed, these have been informed in certain

Topic	Policy Summary	Relevant Draft ES Chapter/Draft DCO application document	How this will be addressed in the ES and where relevant the DCO application.
			locations by ground investigation. Further ground investigation will be undertaken to finalise the crossing type. The pipeline will not cross National or International sites or site designated for their geological/geomorphological interest. The Applicant will consult with Natural England and a summary of this consultation will be provided within Chapter 13 Agriculture.
2.22 Natural gas and oil pipelines: Mitigation	Site Selection Where it is not considered practicable to select a route that avoids below surface usage, applicants must demonstrate in the ES that mitigating measures will be put in place to avoid adverse effects both on other below ground works and on the pipeline.	Chapter 12: Ground Conditions. Appendix 12D: Halite Risk Assessment	The Applicant has sought to avoid below surface usage where possible. The Halite Assessment summarised in Chapter 12: Ground Conditions and provides as Appendix 12D identifies locations subject to previous and current extraction.

Topic	Policy Summary	Relevant Draft ES Chapter/Draft DCO application document	How this will be addressed in the ES and where relevant the DCO application.
		Chapter 14: Land Use. Appendix 14A: Mineral Resource Assessment	The Project passes through land safeguarded for mineral and aggregate extraction whilst mitigation is set out in Chapter 14 .
	Noise and Vibration Mitigation measures such as screening, or the enclosure of compressors and pumps, should be considered by applicants, particularly for above ground infrastructure. Vibration mitigation measures could include the use of non-impact piling such as augur boring.	Chapter 10: Noise. Appendix 3B: Draft Outline CEMP	The Outline CEMP sets out measures to control noise and vibration.
	Biodiversity, Landscape and Visual Mitigation measures to protect the landscape, visual amenity and ecology could include reducing the working width required for the installation of the pipeline to reduce the impact on the landscape where it will not be possible to fully reinstate the route.	Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual Appendix 8C: Arboricultural Impact Assessment	Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual confirms that the Project avoids designated landscapes. Related commitments will be set out in the DCO application documents.

Topic	Policy Summary	Relevant Draft ES Chapter/Draft DCO application document	How this will be addressed in the ES and where relevant the DCO application.
	In circumstances where the habitat to be crossed contains ancient woodland, ancient or veteran trees, trees subject to a Tree Preservation Order, or hedgerows subject to the Hedgerows Regulations 1997, the applicant should consider whether it would be feasible to use HDD under the ancient woodland or thrust bore under the protected tree or hedgerow and the Secretary of State should consider requiring this, where not included in the proposal. In designated landscapes, measures may need to go beyond those needed to mitigate for the effects of the scheme and seek to enhance the special qualities of the designated area.		An Arboricultural Assessment informed by tree survey is provided as Draft ES Appendix 8C. It categorises trees according to their value and has been used to inform the route of the pipeline which also includes for the HDD under Ancient woodlands.
	Water Quality and Resources Mitigation measures to protect the water environment could include techniques for crossing rivers and managing surface water before and after construction, including restoring vegetation and using sustainable drainage systems to control run-off. Design measures which are typically taken to protect water quality include: - the avoidance of vulnerable groundwater areas or appropriate use of above ground pipeline facilities; - use of the highest specification pipework and best practice in the storage and handling of pollutants to prevent spillage;	Chapter 7: Water Environment Appendix 7F, Annex 7F6: Outline Drainage Strategy Appendix 3B: Draft Outline CEMP	Chapter 7: Water Environment identifies the effects of the Project on the water environment. It identifies the mitigation proposed to reduce the level of effects. It is supported by an Outline Drainage Strategy which seeks to use sustainable drainage systems where possible.

Topic	Policy Summary	Relevant Draft ES Chapter/Draft DCO application document	How this will be addressed in the ES and where relevant the DCO application.
	- careful storage of excavated material away from watercourses and facilities for the disposal of sewage and waste; - use of sustainable drainage systems; and - careful reinstatement of riverbanks and reed beds. Soil and Geology Mitigation measures to minimise any adverse effects on soil and geology should include measures to ensure that residual impacts on the surface are minor. Mitigation measures should include appropriate treatment of soil (in particular topsoil and soil with high organic content) during site construction and other infrastructure activity (and appropriate soil storage and reinstatement in line with the principles and practices outlined in the Code of Practice for the Sustainable Management of Soils on Construction Sites and the Agricultural Land Classification which provides guidelines on soil handling and restoration criteria and land quality. Applicants are encouraged to develop and implement a Soil Resources and Management Plan which could help to use and manage soils sustainably and minimise adverse impacts on soil health and potential land contamination. This should be in line with the ambition set out in the Environmental Improvement Plan to bring at least 40% of England's agricultural soils into sustainable management by 2028 and increase this to 60% by 2030.	Chapter 12: Ground Conditions Chapter 13: Agriculture and Soil Resources Appendix 3B: Draft Outline CEMP	The Outline CEMP provides measures to protect and manage water and watercourse during construction. The final ES will include an Outline Soil Management Plan. This will be informed by the final ALC survey and a peat survey. It will set out the measures to be taken to protect soils. The Applicant's proposals for HDD are informed by Ground Investigation. Nevertheless alternative approaches are also accounted for within the Environmental Statement with environmental topics

Topic	Policy Summary	Relevant Draft ES Chapter/Draft DCO application document	How this will be addressed in the ES and where relevant the DCO application.
	Where HDD is proposed, the applicant should provide an alternative plan for installing the pipeline in the event that HDD fails. Such alternative means could include open cut, micro-tunnelling and tunnelling.		assessing the relevant worse case.

4.4 National Planning Policy Framework (Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities), December 2023

- 4.4.1 The National Planning Policy Framework²⁷ (NPPF) sets out the Government's economic, environmental and social planning policies for England and how these should be applied. It helps inform decision-making on planning applications as well as the production of local and neighbourhood plans. The NPPF is supported by The National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG). The NPPG is available as a web-based resource.
- 4.4.2 Whilst the NPPF does not contain specific policies for NSIPs, it may be considered by the SoS to be an "important and relevant" consideration to its decisions in accordance with Section 104 of the 2008 Act. In this context, the NPPF does include policies pertinent to generic development management considerations and some of its principles may be considered where relevant to the Project. These principles are concerned with (inter alia) protection and conservation of the natural and built and historic environments, climate change and flooding as well as sustainable growth, development and a strong, competitive economy.
- 4.4.3 The individual environmental topic chapters of the ES include a summary of the NPPF paragraphs relevant to them. An assessment of the compliance of the Project with the policies of the NPPF is presented in the Planning Statement submitted as part of the DCO.

4.5 Local Planning Policy

Introduction

- 4.5.1 In deciding applications, the SoS is required to have regard to any other matters which he or she thinks are both important and relevant to the decision. Paragraph
- 4.5.2 4.1.12 of NPS EN-1 clarifies that Development Plan Documents or other documents in Local Development Frameworks may be both important and relevant considerations to the SoS's decision making. However, as confirmed by NPS EN-1 (paragraph 4.1.15), any conflict between the NPSs and local policy is resolved by the principle that policy of the NPSs 'prevails'. Weight may also be given to emerging planning policy according to their stage of preparation, the level of objections and the degree of consistency with the relevant NPS.
- 4.5.3 A description of the relevant local plans and policies is provided below, while a detailed description and summary of local planning policy is included in **Appendix 4A: Local Planning Policy**.

²⁷ Ibid., 4.

Cheshire East Council

- 4.5.4 A section of the HyNet hydrogen pipeline and a Block Valve Installation (BVI) are located within the Cheshire East Council's administrative area. Development Plan policy within Cheshire East, which is relevant to the Project consists of the Local Plan Strategy, the Site Allocations and Development Policies document, the saved policies of the Cheshire Replacement Minerals Local Plan, and the saved policies of the Cheshire Replacement Waste Local Plan.
- 4.5.5 The Cheshire East Local Plan Strategy²⁸ was adopted on 27 July 2017 and sets out the overall vision and planning strategy for development. The Site Allocations and Development Policies Document²⁹ was adopted on 14 December 2022 and is the second part of the Council's Local Plan and provides further detailed planning policies and site allocations to support the strategic policies and sites contained in the Local Plan Strategy.
- 4.5.6 The Cheshire Replacement Minerals Local Plan³⁰ was adopted in 1999 and the Cheshire Replacement Waste Local Plan³¹ was adopted in 2007. A number of policies from each document were saved by directions made in 2007 and 2010. Some of these saved policies were subsequently replaced by policies in the Local Plan Strategy. However, saved policies from both documents remain as adopted policy.

Neighbourhood Plans

- 4.5.7 There are 38 Neighbourhood Plans in Cheshire East, of these the High Legh Neighbourhood Plan is relevant. It is in draft with consultation planned in 2024.

Supplementary Planning Documents

- 4.5.8 The following SPDs are relevant to the Project:
- Rural Development SPD (July 2008)³²;

²⁸ Cheshire East Council (2017) Local Plan Strategy 2010-2030. Available from: <https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/pdf/planning/local-plan/local-plan-strategy-web-version-1.pdf> (Accessed May 2024).

²⁹ Cheshire East Council (2022) Site Allocations and Development Policies Document. Available from: <https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/planning/spatial-planning/cheshire-east-local-plan/site-allocations-and-policies/sadpd-examination/documents/examination-library/adopted-sadpd.pdf> (Accessed May 2022).

³⁰ Cheshire County Council (1999) Cheshire Replacement Minerals Plan. Available from: <https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/pdf/planning/spatial-planning/strategic-planning/en-ldf-crepmlp-99.pdf> (Accessed May 2024).

³¹ Cheshire County Council (2007) Cheshire Replacement Waste Local Plan. Available from: <https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/pdf/planning/spatial-planning/saved-and-other-policies/en-ldf-wastelocplan.pdf> (Accessed May 2024).

³² Cheshire East Council (formerly Congleton) (2008) Rural Development SPD. Available from: <https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/pdf/planning/spatial-planning/strategic-planning/en-pp-spd-rural.pdf> (Accessed May 2024).

- Nature Conservation Strategy SPD (October 2006)³³;
- Environmental Protection³⁴; and
- SuDs³⁵.

- 4.5.9 The Rural Development SPD provides advice to developers on the Council's preferred approach to development in rural areas. It aims to ensure support for Local Services and the vitality of rural areas, appropriate rural buildings are re-used or redeveloped, proposed uses are appropriate for rural buildings, and that the built and natural rural environment is enhanced and protected.
- 4.5.10 The Nature Conservation Strategy SPD provides information on the different elements which make up the natural environment in the former Borough of Macclesfield and provides policies in order to protect and enhance those assets.

Emerging Policy

- 4.5.11 The Council's Local Development Strategy proposes that the Minerals and Waste Local Plan will be first published in early 2025 whilst plan-making for the New Local Plan will commence in late 2024.

Cheshire West and Chester Council

- 4.5.12 A large portion of the HyNet hydrogen pipeline plus spurlines is proposed within the administrative boundary of Cheshire West and Chester Council (CWAC), along with one BVI and four areas of Hydrogen Above Ground Infrastructure (HAGIs). CWAC development plan policy relating to the Project consists of The Local Plan (Part 1) Strategic Policies³⁶ (adopted 29 January 2015), The Local Plan (Part 2) Land Allocations and Detailed Policies³⁷ (adopted on 18 July 2019).

³³ Macclesfield Borough Council (2006) Nature Conservation Strategy. Available from: <https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/pdf/planning/supplementary-planning-documents/enpp-spd-ncstrat.pdf> (Accessed May 2024).

³⁴ Cheshire East Council (2024) Environmental Protection SPD. Available from: <https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/pdf/planning/spatial-planning/spds/environmental-protection-supplementary-planning-document.pdf> (Accessed June 2024).

³⁵ Cheshire East Council (2024) SuDs SPD. Available from: <https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/pdf/planning/spatial-planning/suds-spd/cec-suds-guide-publish.pdf> (Accessed June 2024).

³⁶ Cheshire West And Chester Council (2015) Local Plan (Part One) Strategic Policies. Available from: <https://consult.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/kse/event/24907/section/3252243> (Accessed May 2024).

³⁷ Cheshire West and Chester Council (2019) Local Plan (Part Two) Land Allocations and Detailed Policies. Available from: <https://consult.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/kse/event/34617/section/5428432> (Accessed May 2024).

Neighbourhood Plans

4.5.13 The Council has a number of adopted neighbourhood plans. Those within which the Project is located are listed below:

- Cuddington – affected by the pipeline including road access;
- Ince – private roads to be used for access would be located within this plan area;
- Helsby – the pipeline and road access;
- Hartford – the pipeline and road access;
- Davenham and Whatcroft – the pipeline, road access and the HSF HAGI;
- Moulton – the pipeline and road access; and
- Whitegate and Marton – the pipeline and road access.

4.5.14 The following neighbourhood plan is in preparation.

- Frodsham (Regulation 16) – the pipeline, access roads and Rocksavage HAGI would be located within this plan area.

Supplementary Planning Documents

4.5.15 The following SPDs are relevant to the Project:

- Oil and Gas Exploration, Production and Distribution SPD³⁸ (May 2017).

4.5.16 The Oil and Gas Exploration, Production and Distribution SPD is intended to supplement the policies within The Local Plan (Part One) and provide advice for applicants and decision makers. Along with the Local Plan, the SPD seeks to ensure that oil and gas developments, as well as other minerals developments take place in a sustainable manner that promotes economic, social and environmental well-being.

Emerging Policy

4.5.17 In January 2024 the Council decided to prepare a new Local Plan. It estimates that it will take 34 months to prepare.

Halton Borough Council

4.5.18 A section of the proposed hydrogen pipeline, the Runcorn Spur and one HAGI area are proposed within the administrative area of Halton Borough Council. Halton's Development Plan consists of two documents: the Delivery and Allocations Local Plan (incorporating remaining policies from the Core Strategy Local Plan) and the Joint Merseyside and Halton Waste Local Plan.

³⁸ Cheshire West and Chester Council (2017) Oil and Gas Exploration, Production and Distribution SPD. Available from: <https://consult.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/kse/event/29390/section/> (Accessed May 2024).

4.5.19 The Delivery and Allocations Local Plan³⁹ was adopted on 2 March 2022 and sets out the long-term spatial vision and strategic policies for development to 2037, including new homes, employment provision, shops, services, infrastructure, climate change, conservation and enhancement of the natural and historic environment.

Supplementary Planning Documents

4.5.20 The following SPDs are relevant to the Project:

- Planning for Risk SPD⁴⁰ (October 2009); and
- Design of New Commercial and Industrial Development SPD⁴¹ (February 2006).

4.5.21 The purpose of the Planning for Risk SPD is to explain in greater detail how the Borough's relevant policies should be interpreted, as well as to complement and expand upon Halton's development plan policies. The SPD provides additional and more detailed policies for deciding how new developments that either pose significant site risks, or are located in areas of existing risk, should be balanced against the benefits they will bring.

4.5.22 The purpose of the Design of New Commercial and Industrial Development SPD is to complement Halton's development plan policies and provide guidance to those planning to provide new development within the Borough. The SPD provides guidance to: design new industrial and commercial developments that related well to their local environment, use quality materials that respond to local character and reduce environmental impact, and create better, more sustainable places where people will want to work.

4.5.23 The Council is working on the preparation of additional SPDs to include Climate Change.

³⁹ Halton Borough Council (2022) Halton Delivery and Allocations Local Plan. Available from:
<https://www3.halton.gov.uk/Documents/planning/planning%20policy/newdalp/DALP%20Adopted.pdf> (Accessed May 2024).

⁴⁰ Halton Borough Council (2009) Planning for Risk SPD. Available from:
<https://www3.halton.gov.uk/Documents/planning/planning%20policy/spd/Adopted/Planning for Risk SPD %282009%29.pdf> (Accessed May 2024).

⁴¹ Halton Borough Council (2006) Design of New Commercial & Industrial Development SPD. Available from:
<https://www3.halton.gov.uk/Documents/planning/planning%20policy/spd/Adopted/Design of New Industrial and Commercial Development SPD %282006%29.pdf> (Accessed May 2024).

St Helens Borough Council

- 4.5.24 A section of the proposed pipeline, the St Helens and Clockface Spurs as well as the Clockface HAGI area are located within the administrative area of St Helens Borough Council. St Helen's development plan documents relevant to the Project are the St Helens Borough Local Plan 2037, and the Joint Merseyside and Halton Waste Plan.
- 4.5.25 The St Helens Borough Local Plan 2037⁴² was adopted in July 2022. The Local Plan allocates new sites for residential and employment developments, continues to afford protection to the natural and historic assets of the area (including their character and setting) and continues to place importance on the Green Belt not being compromised by development.
- 4.5.26 Whilst St Helens BC does include neighbourhood areas with associated Neighbourhood Plans there are none which cover the project area.

Supplementary Planning Documents

4.5.27 The following SPDs are relevant to the Project:

- Biodiversity SPD⁴³ (June 2011);
- Design Guidance SPD⁴⁴ (April 2024);
- List of Locally Important Buildings SPD⁴⁵ (June 2011);
- Trees and Development SPD⁴⁶ (June 2008); and
- Transport and Travel SPD⁴⁷ (April 2024).

⁴² St Helens Borough Council (2022) St Helen's Borough Local Plan up to 2037. Available from: https://www.sthelens.gov.uk/media/4315/St-Helens-Borough-Local-Plan-up-to-2037/pdf/Local_Plan_Written_Statement_-_FINAL_adoption_version.pdf?m=1658409100420 (Accessed May 2024).

⁴³ St Helens Borough Council (2011) Biodiversity SPD. Available from: https://www.sthelens.gov.uk/media/2398/Biodiversity-June-2011/pdf/Biodiversity_SPD_2011.pdf?m=1644495738700 (Accessed May 2024).

⁴⁴ St Helens Borough Council (2024) Design SPD. Available from: https://www.sthelens.gov.uk/media/8238/Design-Supplementary-Planning-Document/pdf/Design_SPD_April_2024.pdf?m=1714134638210 (Accessed May 2024).

⁴⁵ St Helens Borough Council (2011) St Helens List of Locally Important Buildings SPD. Available from: https://www.sthelens.gov.uk/media/2405/List-of-Locally-Important-Buildings-June-2011/pdf/List_of_Locally_Important_Buildings_SPD_2011.pdf?m=1644496141557 (Accessed May 2024).

⁴⁶ St Helens Borough Council (2008) Trees and Development SPD. Available from: https://www.sthelens.gov.uk/media/2411/Trees-and-Development-June-2008/pdf/Trees_and_Development_SPD_2008.pdf?m=1644496381370 (Accessed May 2024).

⁴⁷ St Helens Borough Council (2024) Transport and Travel SPD. Available from <https://www.sthelens.gov.uk/media/8241/Transport-and-Travel-Supplementary-Planning->

- 4.5.28 St Helens Biodiversity SPD aims to provide clear guidance on the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity in new development, ensure biodiversity is safeguarded and enhanced through the determination of applications, and increase the biodiversity resource and its robustness throughout St Helens Borough.
- 4.5.29 The Design SPD aims to provide several benefits such as; clear, transparent and consistent design guidance, inspiring high standards in design and placemaking, speeding up the approvals process, setting out a structured process for design, and ensuring that communities are engaged in the process at appropriate times.
- 4.5.30 The List of Locally Important Buildings SPD identifies buildings of special local architecture and history in order to provide them with a level of protection against undesirable alterations and/or irreplaceable loss. Its key objectives include, encouraging the preservation and repair of important buildings, and ensuring developments are sympathetic to the character of the Borough's important buildings.
- 4.5.31 The aim of the Trees and Development SPD is to assist St Helens Council and developers in working collaboratively to achieve high quality developments that retain good quality trees and secure new tree planting as an integral part of the design. The Transport and Travel SPD provides guidance in the preparation of Transport Statements, Assessments and Travel Plans plus the use of HGV management plans.
- 4.5.32 The Council is currently preparing additional SPDs which will include a Nature Conservation SPD and Local Economy and Social Value SPD.

Trafford Council

- 4.5.33 Part of the proposed hydrogen pipeline, the Partington and Warburton Spurs along with two HAGI (Warburton and Partington) areas are located within the administrative boundary of the Metropolitan Borough of Trafford Council. The development plan documents relevant to the Project include The Trafford Local Plan Core Strategy, and the Place for Everyone Joint Development Plan.
- 4.5.34 The Trafford Local Plan Core Strategy⁴⁸ was adopted in January 2012. It sets out an overarching strategy and development principles for Trafford to guide development until at least 2026.

[Document/pdf/Transport and Travel SPD April 2024.pdf?m=1714134693270](#)
(Accessed June 2024)

⁴⁸ Trafford Council (2012) Trafford Local Plan Core Strategy. Available from:
<https://www.trafford.gov.uk/planning/strategic-planning/docs/core-strategy-adopted-final.pdf> (Accessed May 2024).

Places for Everyone

4.5.35 Places for Everyone⁴⁹ is a collaborative policy document between nine metropolitan councils in Greater Manchester. The document was adopted as part of Trafford's development plan on 21 March 2024. The Plan proposing two, large scale allocations at New Carrington and Timperley Wedge, both of which would provide residential and employment land. The Project intersects with the land allocated in the New Carrington allocation.

Supplementary Planning Documents

4.5.36 The following SPDs are relevant to the Project:

- Revised SPD1: Planning Obligations (July 2014); and
- SPD5: Conservation Areas:
 - ▶ SPD5.16: Dunham Woodhouses Conservation Area Appraisal⁵⁰ (October 2016) – the settlement is some 1.5km from the Project boundary;
 - ▶ SPD5.16a: Dunham Woodhouses Conservation Area Management Plan⁵¹ (October 2016);
 - ▶ SPD5.20: Warburton Conservation Area Appraisal⁵² (October 2016) – the settlement is location some 2.5km from the Project boundary; and
 - ▶ SPD5.20a: Warburton Conservation Area Management Plan⁵³ (October 2016).

4.5.37 The Planning Obligations SPD clarifies the relationship between the different mechanisms that deliver infrastructure such as planning conditions, planning obligations, and Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). The document sets out Trafford Council's approach to seeking planning obligations in conjunction with Trafford's CIL, for the provision of infrastructure, environmental improvements, and affordable housing required as a result of new development.

⁴⁹ Greater Manchester Combined Authority (2024) Places for Everyone Joint Development Plan. Available from: <https://www.warrington.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2023-12/Warrington%20local%20plan%20-%202021-22%20-%202038-39%20-%20Adopted%20December%202023.pdf> (Accessed May 2024).

⁵⁰ Trafford Council (2016) Dunham Woodhouses Conservation Area Appraisal. Available from: <https://www.trafford.gov.uk/planning/strategic-planning/docs/November-2016/caa-Dunham-Woodhouses-Oct-2016.pdf> (Accessed May 2024).

⁵¹ Trafford Council (2016) Dunham Woodhouses Conservation Area Management Plan. Available from: <https://www.trafford.gov.uk/planning/strategic-planning/docs/November-2016/caa-camp-Dunham-Town-Oct-2016.pdf> (Accessed May 2024).

⁵² Trafford Council (2016) Warburton Conservation Area Appraisal. Available from: <https://www.trafford.gov.uk/planning/strategic-planning/docs/November-2016/caa-Warburton-Village-Oct-2016.pdf> (Accessed May 2024).

⁵³ Trafford Council (2016) Warburton Conservation Area Management Plan. Available from: <https://www.trafford.gov.uk/planning/strategic-planning/docs/November-2016/caa-camp-Warburton-Village-Oct-2016.pdf> (Accessed May 2024).

- 4.5.38 Trafford Conservation Area SPDs set out the special interests of the conservation areas and the elements that are worthy of retention or enhancement, as well as the elements that detract from the character and appearance of the areas. The documents act as a framework for development management and provide a greater understanding of the special interest of the areas.

New Trafford Plan

- 4.5.39 Trafford Council is currently in the process of producing a new local plan. The Local Development Scheme 2022 advises that the Council will formally publish the Plan (Reg 19) in Autumn 2024 with a view to its adoption in Winter 2025.

Warrington Borough Council

- 4.5.40 A portion of the proposed pipeline, the Warrington Spurs and a HAGI (Higher Walton) are located within the administrative area of Warrington Borough Council. The only development plan documents which relate to the Project is The Warrington Local Plan 2012/22 – 2038/39.
- 4.5.41 The Warrington Local Plan 2021/22 - 2038/39⁵⁴ was adopted in December 2023. It sets out an overarching strategy and development principles for Warrington to guide development until at least 2039.

Neighbourhood Plans

- 4.5.42 The Council has one adopted Neighbourhood Plan, Appleton and Thorne. The pipeline passes to the west of the plan area.

Supplementary Planning Documents

- 4.5.43 The following SPDs are relevant to the Project:
- SPD3: Planning Obligations⁵⁵ (January 2017);
 - SPD4: Design and Construction⁵⁶ (February 2016); and
 - SPD6: Environmental Protection⁵⁷ (May 2013).

⁵⁴ Warrington Borough Council (2023) Warrington Local Plan 2021/22 – 2038/39. Available from: <https://www.warrington.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2023-12/Warrington%20local%20plan%20-%202021-22%20-%202038-39%20-%20Adopted%20December%202023.pdf> (Accessed May 2024).

⁵⁵ Warrington Borough Council (2017) Planning Obligations SPD. Available from: <https://www.warrington.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2020-09/Planning%20Obligations%20Supplementary%20Planning%20Document%20-%20Jan%202017.pdf> (Accessed May 2024).

⁵⁶ Warrington Borough Council (2016) Design and Construction SPD. Available from: https://www.warrington.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2019-08/design_and_construction_spd_-_2010.pdf (Accessed May 2024).

⁵⁷ Warrington Borough Council (2013) Environmental Protection SPD. Available from: <https://www.warrington.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2020->

- 4.5.44 Warrington's Planning Obligations SPD aims to provide guidance to support development plan policies and relevant national guidance. The document sets out the Council's approach to seeking planning obligations for the provision of benefits such as affordable housing, biodiversity, education, green infrastructure/open space, etc, as a result of new development.
- 4.5.45 The Design and Construction SPD sets out the Council's approach regarding design considerations that can be incorporated in the production and determination of planning applications. It aims to support the design and construction related policies that out within Warrington's development plan.
- 4.5.46 The Environmental Protection SPD provides additional environmental protection policies to supplement those that are set out within Warrington's development plan.

4.6 UK Government Industrial, Energy and Climate Change Policy

The Clean Growth Strategy – Leading a way to a low carbon future 2018⁵⁸

- 4.6.1 The strategy identifies the opportunities presented by the use of hydrogen to power industrial processes and potential use in domestic appliances. It assesses different pathways towards a zero carbon 2050 demonstrating three pathways with pathway 2 described as the 'Hydrogen pathway'.

The UK Carbon Capture usage and storage deployment pathway: an action plan⁵⁹ 2018

- 4.6.2 The strategy establishes the Government's commitment to deploying carbon capture at scale during the 2030s. This is however dependent upon the economics of such technology. The Action Plan proposes the first facility commissioning in the mid 2020's. The strategy considers the use of low carbon hydrogen with CCUS.

The Ten Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution⁶⁰, November 2020

- 4.6.3 The Ten Point Plan aims to set the foundations for stopping climate change while also delivering jobs and growth across the country. The Plan brings together policies and significant new public investment to deliver this, as well as seeking to mobilise private investment. Within the Plan it states that it has the potential to deliver £42 billion of private investment by 2030 across energy, buildings, transport, innovation and the natural environment.

[09/Environmental%20protection%20-%20supplementary%20planning%20guidance.pdf](#)
(Accessed May 2024).

⁵⁸ Ibid., 5.

⁵⁹ Ibid., 6.

⁶⁰ Ibid., 7.

The Energy White Paper: 'Powering our Net Zero Future'⁶¹, December 2020

- 4.6.4 The Energy White Paper builds on the Prime Minister's Ten Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution and puts 'net zero' and fighting climate change at its core to be consistent with 2050 emissions targets. It establishes the Government's goal of a decisive shift from fossil fuels to clean energy, in power, buildings and industry, while creating jobs and growing the economy and keeping energy bills affordable.

The Sixth Carbon Budget⁶², April 2021

- 4.6.5 The UK's Sixth Carbon Budget is required under the Climate Change Act and provides ministers with advice on the volume of greenhouse gases the UK can emit during the period 2033-2037. The budget is set around the UK's goal of achieving net zero emissions by 2050. The Sixth Budget recommends that emissions, based on 1990 levels, are reduced by 78% by 2035.

UK Hydrogen Strategy⁶³, August 2021

- 4.6.6 The UK Hydrogen Strategy takes a holistic approach to developing the UK hydrogen sector. It sets out what needs to happen to enable the production, distribution, storage and use of hydrogen and to secure economic opportunities for industrial heartlands across the UK. It provides goals and principles, and a roadmap showing how the Government expect the hydrogen economy to evolve over the coming decade. The Strategy combines near term pace and action with clear, long-term direction to unlock the innovation and investment critical to meeting Government ambitions.

⁶¹ HM Government (2020) Energy White Paper: 'Powering out Net Zero Future'. Available from: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5fdc61e2d3bf7f3a3bdc8cbf/201216_BEIS_EWP_Command_Paper_Accessible.pdf (Accessed May 2024).

⁶² Climate Change Committee (2020). The Sixth Carbon Budget. The UK's Path to Net Zero. (online) Available at: <https://www.theccc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/The-Sixth-Carbon-Budget-The-UKs-path-to-Net-Zero.pdf> (Accessed May 2024).

⁶³ Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (2021). UK Hydrogen Strategy. (online) Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-hydrogen-strategy/uk-hydrogen-strategy-accessible-html-version> (Accessed May 2024).

British Energy Security Strategy⁶⁴, April 2022

- 4.6.7 The Energy Security Strategy proposes to accelerate the UK towards a low-carbon, energy independent future. It focuses on expanding UK domestic energy supply alongside commitments to completely remove Russian oil and coal imports by the end of 2022, and Russia gas 'as soon as possible thereafter' following the Russian invasion of Ukraine. The strategy also aims to reduce the price of energy bills and keep them low for the long term, as well as make use to Britain's inexhaustible resources to produce renewable energy, such as wind and solar. The strategy also commits to producing vastly more hydrogen, which it states is a 'low-carbon superfuel of the future'.

Powering Up Britain: Energy Security Plan⁶⁵, April 2023

- 4.6.8 The Energy Security Plan builds on the 'British Energy Security Strategy' and 'Net Zero Strategy' sets out the steps the Government is taking to ensure the UK is more energy independent, secure, and resilient. The plan states that the UK will move towards energy independence by doubling Britain's electricity generation capacity by the late 2030's.

UK Hydrogen Transport Business Model⁶⁶, December 2023

- 4.6.9 This document is intended to support the implementation of the Energy Security Plan recognising that the initial focus will be on large-scale pipeline infrastructure which transports hydrogen as gas. The document provides an update on the work to date and Government views with regard to future timescales, eligibility criteria and evidence requirements for future applicants. It commits to providing a future update in Q2 2024 in order to provide industry with further detail on the application process but with the intention of opening the first allocation window in Q3 2024.

⁶⁴ HM Government (2022). British Energy Security Strategy 2022 (Online). Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/british-energy-security-strategy/british-energy-security-strategy> (Accessed May 2024).

⁶⁵ HM Government (2023). Powering Up Britain: Energy Security Plan (Online). Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/powering-up-britain/powering-up-britain-energy-security-plan> (Accessed July 2024).

⁶⁶ HM Government (2023). Hydrogen Transport Business Model (Online). Available at: <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/657a022d0467eb001355f7a5/hydrogen-transport-business-model-market-engagement-on-first-allocation-round.pdf> (Accessed July 2024).

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