



# Runcorn Carbon Dioxide Spur Pipeline Proposed Development

Pre-application Consultation Brochure  
March to April 2025



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## About Liverpool Bay CCS Limited

Liverpool Bay CCS Limited (LBCCS), a member of the Eni SpA group, is leading the development of the Runcorn Carbon Dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) Spur Pipeline Proposed Development (Runcorn Spur Pipeline Proposed Development).

LBCCS is developing a CO<sub>2</sub> transportation and storage system that will serve the HyNet industrial decarbonisation cluster by transporting the CO<sub>2</sub> from capture plants at existing industrial sites and storing it safely in depleted natural gas reservoirs under the seabed in Liverpool Bay.

As the Transport and Storage (T&S) operator, LBCCS owns and operates the existing infrastructure at Liverpool Bay and will be the applicant that submits the future planning application.

LBCCS works with hard-to-abate industries to unlock a low-carbon future for the region by transporting CO<sub>2</sub> from capture plants across the north west of England and north Wales, through to safe and permanent storage beneath Liverpool Bay. CO<sub>2</sub> will be stored in depleted reservoirs that have held natural gas for millions of years, supporting economic growth and helping the UK reach its net zero objectives.

## About the Runcorn Spur Pipeline Proposed Development

In order to begin rapid decarbonisation, we must work quickly to reduce harmful carbon emissions from local industry and to clean up air quality in the region using carbon capture and storage (CCS).

The Runcorn Spur Pipeline Proposed Development is part of a leading industrial decarbonisation project that aims to tackle CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and support economic growth in the north west of England and north Wales. It will be located approximately 11km northeast of Chester, the nearest city. Other nearby towns and villages include Runcorn, Weston Point, Frodsham and Helsby.

It connects to the HyNet Carbon Dioxide Pipeline, a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project which was granted a Development Consent Order (DCO) by the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero in March 2024.

The Runcorn Spur Pipeline Proposed Development would transport CO<sub>2</sub> from the new carbon capture plant at Viridor's Energy from Waste facility in Runcorn to the HyNet Carbon Dioxide Pipeline at Ince.

### This consultation

Liverpool Bay CCS Limited is consulting with you about the plans for the Runcorn Spur Pipeline Proposed Development.

This brochure provides an overview of the plans and the studies which have shaped the proposals so far. It also provides information about why these plans are being developed and the anticipated timeline for the Runcorn Spur Pipeline Proposed Development.

The views of the community are important to us and will be considered as we finalise the plans ahead of submitting the planning application. You can share your feedback by:



Visiting the project website: [hynethub.co.uk/runcorn](https://hynethub.co.uk/runcorn)

You can submit your feedback on our online feedback form.



Sending an email to: [hello@hynethub.co.uk](mailto:hello@hynethub.co.uk)

We welcome all feedback and any questions you might have about the project.



Sending written feedback to our freepost address: **Freepost LBCCS**

Write us a letter or send us a hard copy of the feedback form. These will be made available at consultation events or you can print from our website if completing by hand is preferable. You don't need a stamp to return the form to us.

**If you would prefer a hard copy of the consultation materials, or if you require these in different formats such as braille or large print, please contact us.**

# What is carbon capture and storage and why is it needed?

As part of the project delivery for a carbon capture and storage (CCS) system to serve the HyNet industrial cluster, three spur pipeline developments are proposed to connect to the HyNet Carbon Dioxide Pipeline.

Through this system, the Runcorn Spur Pipeline Proposed Development will allow for CO<sub>2</sub> to be safely transported between Viridor's Energy from Waste facility (a selected industrial emitter of CO<sub>2</sub>) and the CO<sub>2</sub> storage facilities in Liverpool Bay.

## Why is CCS needed?

CO<sub>2</sub> released into the atmosphere is a major cause of climate change. Reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions into the atmosphere is an essential part of managing our climate emergency.

In response to climate change, the UK Government has established a net zero emissions target. This means that by 2050, any CO<sub>2</sub> emissions to the atmosphere must be offset by equivalent emissions removal. International and domestic environmental agencies, including the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change<sup>1</sup> and the Committee on Climate Change in the UK<sup>2</sup> consider CCS to be vital in achieving these targets.

Some industrial processes produce a huge amount of CO<sub>2</sub> that is currently released to the atmosphere. To meet the UK's targets, we need to significantly reduce these emissions. CCS is a vitally important process, particularly for industries like cement, which find it hard to lower their carbon emissions. These are known as 'hard-to-abate' industries, as CO<sub>2</sub> is a byproduct of their manufacture. Capturing CO<sub>2</sub> at the source of production at these industrial sites enables their operations to continue while reducing their carbon footprint, safeguarding industry jobs in the process and enabling the UK's transition to net zero emissions.

## How it works

CCS is a safe and proven technology that can capture and store up to 95% of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions produced in industrial processes.



**Step one:** Install the technology that will capture the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions at the industrial plant, in this case the Viridor Energy from Waste facility in Runcorn. This step is outside the Runcorn Spur Pipeline Proposed Development as Viridor is responsible for the capture plant.



**Step Two:** The CO<sub>2</sub> is then transported via a pipeline from the industrial plant to the Ince AGI where it connects to the HyNet Carbon Dioxide Pipeline. **This is the step we are applying for.**



**Step three:** From the Ince AGI, the CO<sub>2</sub> is transported via the HyNet Carbon Dioxide Pipeline to be stored deep beneath the seabed in carefully selected offshore sites. These storage sites are depleted natural gas fields beneath Liverpool Bay, which have previously held natural gas securely for millions of years.

CCS is a well-established technology that has captured and stored CO<sub>2</sub> from industrial processes in Europe since 1996. There are currently over 40 operational CCS projects worldwide and we are working with the international CCS community to share key results and lessons learned on other large-scale CCS projects. We are making use of these valuable insights from international best practice as we develop our proposals.

In the UK, CCS is regulated by the UK Government's Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) and we are working closely with them to ensure that our CCS projects comply with their standards.



View of Manchester Ship Canal

<sup>1</sup> Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (2022). Climate Change 2022: Mitigation of Climate Change. Available at [https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg3/downloads/report/IPCC\\_AR6\\_WGIII\\_FullReport.pdf](https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg3/downloads/report/IPCC_AR6_WGIII_FullReport.pdf) (accessed 30/10/2024)

<sup>2</sup> Committee on Climate Change (2019). Net Zero Technical report. Available at <https://www.theccc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/Net-Zero-Technical-report-CCC.pdf> (accessed 30/10/2024)

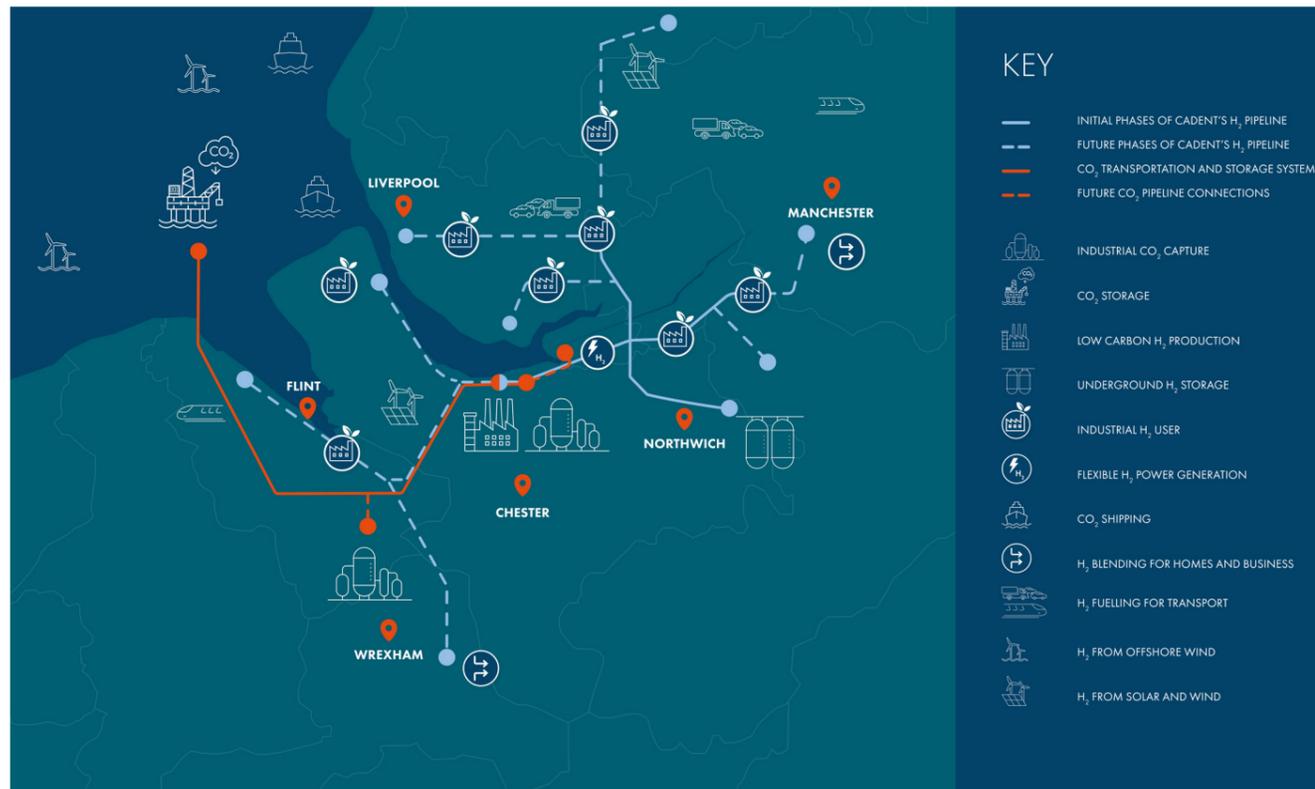
## About HyNet North West

HyNet represents a collection of world-leading organisations coming together to build a game-changing energy project. It aims to reduce carbon emissions from industry, and support growth in the north west of England and north Wales in the UK's challenge to meet net zero carbon emissions.

It will provide carbon capture, transport and storage with the potential to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from industry by up to 10 million tonnes every year in the 2030's - the

equivalent of taking four million cars off the road. It will also deliver a low carbon hydrogen network that will produce, store and distribute hydrogen to decarbonise the north west of England and north Wales.

Liverpool Bay CCS Limited will be the CO<sub>2</sub> transport and storage operator to serve the HyNet industrial cluster. The project's aims and principles for the transportation and storage of CO<sub>2</sub> have been backed by the Government's Department of Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ).



### The HyNet Carbon Capture and Storage infrastructure includes:

- Facilities to capture CO<sub>2</sub> emissions
- Pipelines to transport CO<sub>2</sub> emissions to permanent safe storage
- Storage in depleted gas reservoirs offshore in Liverpool Bay

### Further HyNet elements include:

- Low-carbon hydrogen production plants
- A hydrogen pipeline network
- Salt caverns in which hydrogen can be stored

## The story so far...

The UK Government understands that in order to successfully tackle climate change, all parts of the economy must decarbonise and become greener, including heavy industry. The Government is supporting projects to decarbonise four of the largest industrial clusters in the UK, and HyNet North West is one of these.

North west England and north Wales have always been areas of industrial innovation, providing the food, fuel, products and services that allow this country to thrive. Because of this, the region is home to an abundance of highly skilled workers.

The region has a proud industrial heritage, and it remains home to a wide range of world-class energy intensive industries. This means that HyNet, and the Runcorn Spur Pipeline Proposed Development, will play its part in supporting the decarbonisation of a wide range of industry sectors, potentially including energy from waste, chemicals, ceramics, oil refining, paper and automotive. All companies in these sectors currently emit significant amounts of CO<sub>2</sub> during manufacturing, and so must change their processes to enable long-term, sustainable operation.



Point of Ayr Lighthouse

## Benefits of the Runcorn Spur Pipeline Proposed Development

Our proposals will support thousands of new jobs in the north west of England and north Wales and will help to protect many more for the future. There will also be greater opportunities for local people, tapping into the area's blend of industrial experience and scientific expertise, which together will create a hotspot for innovation and growth. We will bring opportunities for local people to develop new skillsets and train to work in exciting, world-leading sectors.

To maximise the benefit to local communities, we will continue to work with local suppliers where possible. Our procurement processes will consider suppliers with strong environmental, social and governance (ESG) ratings to ensure that the design and construction of the Runcorn Spur Pipeline Proposed Development has minimal environmental and community impact.

There are a number of benefits to the local community including:

-  Education experience for young people
-  Work experience for those considering their options
-  Apprenticeships and career opportunities
-  Community funding for environmental and educational initiatives
-  Volunteering from the project team to help local initiatives



Image of apprentice

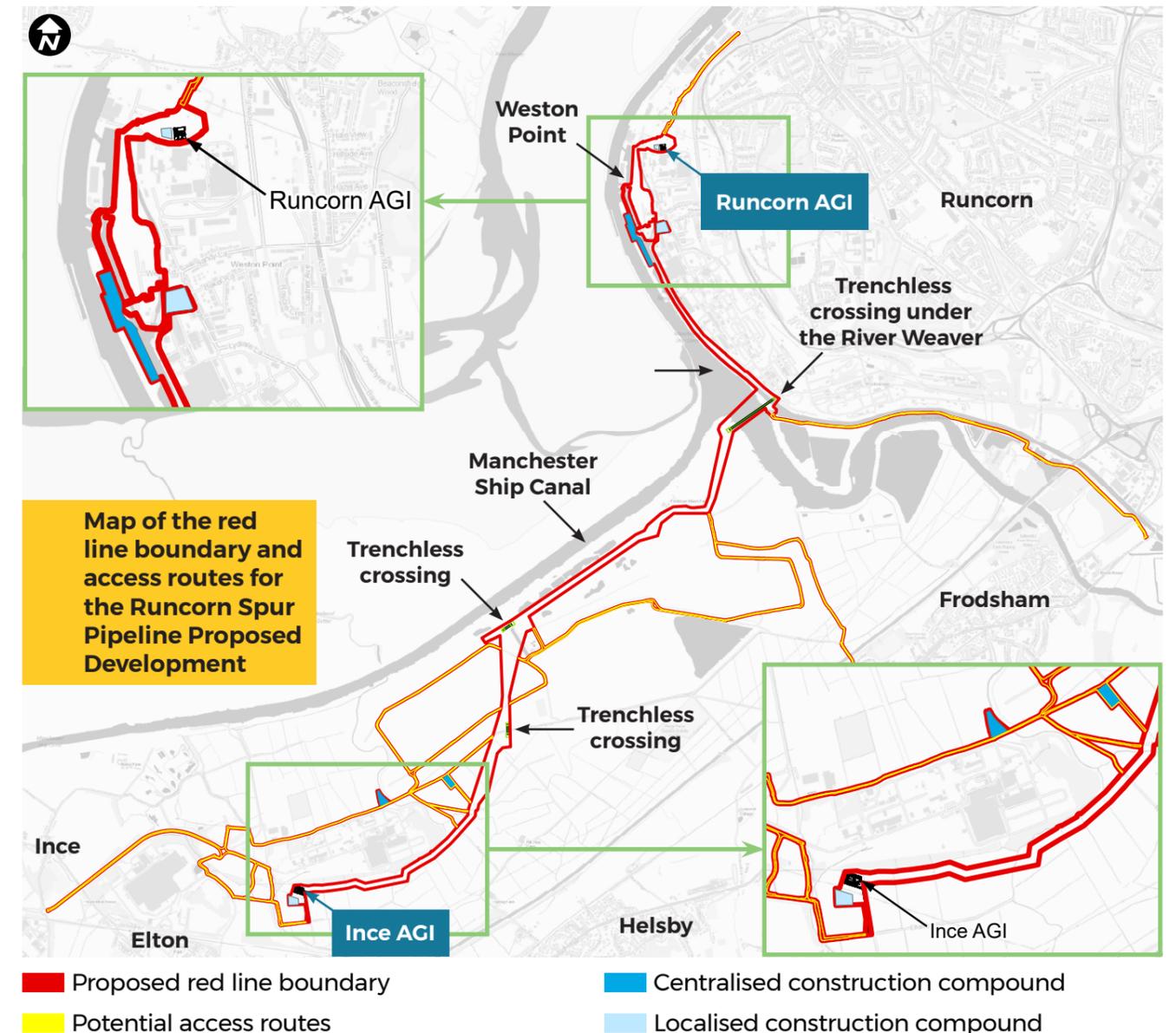
## Overview of the Runcorn Spur Pipeline Proposed Development

The Runcorn Spur Pipeline Proposed Development will connect the carbon capture plant at Viridor's Energy from Waste facility in Runcorn to the HyNet Carbon Dioxide Pipeline at Ince.

This will involve the construction of the proposed spur pipeline to transport CO<sub>2</sub> from the Runcorn AGI to the Ince AGI.

At the Ince AGI, the Runcorn Spur Pipeline Proposed Development will connect to the HyNet Carbon Dioxide Pipeline. The HyNet Carbon Dioxide Pipeline and Ince AGI were part of the DCO which was granted in March 2024 by the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero.

From the Ince AGI, the CO<sub>2</sub> will be transported safely by an underground pipeline to the depleted gas reservoirs in Liverpool Bay. The HyNet Carbon Dioxide Pipeline will comprise of two parts: a new underground pipeline and the existing natural gas pipeline. The new pipeline will connect to the existing natural gas pipeline, which will be repurposed so that it can transport CO<sub>2</sub> out to the storage sites approximately 1km under the seabed in Liverpool Bay.



# What will be built as part of the Runcorn Spur Pipeline Proposed Development?

## The Proposed Development will include:

- **An Above Ground Installation (AGI):** comprising a fenced compound area measuring approximately 40m x 43m. The AGI will house equipment designed to receive CO<sub>2</sub> from the Viridor Energy from Waste facility and ensure the safe and efficient operation of the spur pipeline. The AGI would be located on industrial land adjacent to the Viridor Energy from Waste facility and will be accessed via Percival Lane and Barlow Way. The AGI will also be fitted with 5m high lighting columns that will only operate should there be a security or safety reason, for example a maintenance visit in low light conditions.
- **A spur pipeline** transporting CO<sub>2</sub> connecting the Runcorn AGI to the Ince AGI. The Spur Pipeline will comprise a 20" diameter, steel pipeline approximately 8.7km in length.  
  
It will be above ground on the industrial land between Runcorn AGI and the Weaver Navigation crossing, where it will be constructed on a mix of existing and new pipe racks and supports, and then crossing under the River Weaver and remaining buried underground through agricultural land for the remainder of the route.
- **Additional equipment at Ince AGI** additional pipework and modifications to allow connection into Ince AGI.
- **Other infrastructure** including telecommunication connections, Cathodic Protection equipment, leak detection equipment, and pipeline marker posts.
- **Temporary works** to facilitate the construction of the Runcorn Spur Pipeline Proposed Development, including construction compounds and temporary access tracks.

## What is an Above Ground Installation?

AGIs allow for the safe and efficient operation of the Runcorn Spur Pipeline Proposed Development, as well as for routine inspections and maintenance.

AGIs typically include:

- **A control kiosk** which provides electrical equipment and instruments for distributing power to control and monitor the system.
- **Connection infrastructure** to connect the CO<sub>2</sub> spur pipeline, such as above and below ground auxiliary pipework and valves, instruments and sensors, cable trays and electrical transformers.
- **Security fencing**, this is typically chain-link fencing with an additional barbed-wire section at the top and a double access gate for maintenance vehicles.

Each AGI will be designed to visually complement the local environment, meaning that the colours used will match the landscape.



Image of an AGI

# Identifying the spur pipeline route

The Runcorn Spur Pipeline Proposed Development will be approximately 8.7km in length, connecting the Viridor Energy from Waste facility's new Carbon Capture Plant to the HyNet Carbon Dioxide Pipeline at the Ince Above Ground Installation (AGI). The Carbon Capture Plant is subject to a separate planning application, which is being prepared by Viridor for submission in 2025.

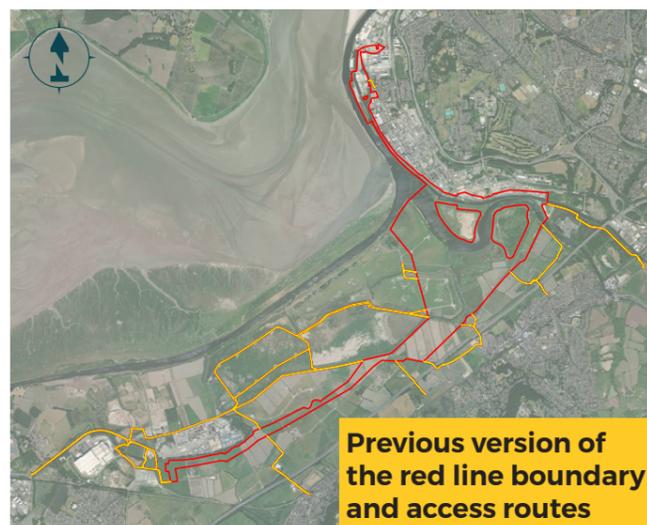
In order to determine the best route from the Viridor Energy from Waste facility to the HyNet Carbon Dioxide Pipeline connection at the Ince AGI we have taken engineering, environmental, planning and landownership considerations into account.

When planning the route, we focused on these key points:

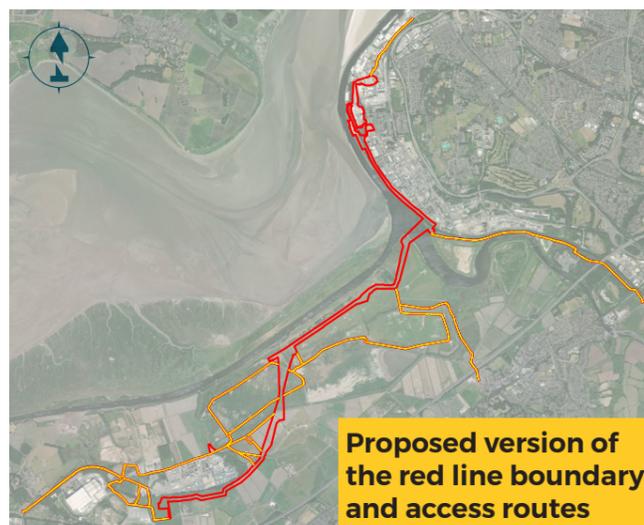
- Protecting the environment and local communities.
- Ensuring the CO<sub>2</sub> transportation is safe and secure.
- Making sure the route is technically sound and causes minimal disruption.
- Boosting local benefits by maximising the positive socio-economic effects in the area.
- Ensuring the project is cost-effective.

The location of the Runcorn Spur Pipeline Proposed Development was chosen due to its proximity to the HyNet Carbon Dioxide Pipeline and the existing plans to capture carbon dioxide at the Viridor Energy from Waste facility. Due to the industrial nature of the Runcorn site, there is opportunity to connect other CO<sub>2</sub> emitters in the future.

The route presented for consultation has evolved since our initial, early engagement was carried out with stakeholders and the public in 2024. Preparatory work for the planning application has included environmental surveys and discussions with local landowners. We have also been working in collaboration with Cubico, the company responsible for the development of the proposed Frodsham Solar Farm. As a result, we have amended the proposed route, so that the section just south of the River Weaver now runs south of the Manchester Ship Canal.



Previous version of the red line boundary and access routes



Proposed version of the red line boundary and access routes

Proposed red line boundary

Potential access routes



## Stage 1: Development of the route corridor

To determine a corridor of land that could house the Runcorn Spur Pipeline Proposed Development desk-based appraisals were carried out in the areas between two locations (Viridor Energy from Waste facility to the Ince AGI) to understand the ecological, heritage and land constraints. A route corridor was identified based on the results.

The route corridor was larger than the land needed for the spur pipeline route to include the land needed for construction compounds and access. The route corridor was reduced as the optioneering process progressed.



## Stage 2: Development of the route options

To determine route options within the identified route corridor, the route options were considered in three sections:

- **From the Runcorn AGI to the River Weaver** - During this section the spur pipeline will be above ground. The route for this section was based on the availability of space on the pipe racks at the existing industrial site.
- **Crossing at the River Weaver** - Several crossing scenarios were considered based on technical, ecological and environmental considerations, such as existing land use, land contamination, soil quality, planning permissions and discussions with landowners.
- **River Weaver to the Ince AGI** - Three options were considered for this section from Weaver Lane towards the Hover Force Outdoor Activity Centre.



## Stage 3: Refinement of route options

As part of the optioneering process we used a digital route option selection tool called Goldset to help identify potential constraints within the route corridor. The results from the Goldset study did not rule out any of the potential route options from being pursued. The data was reviewed alongside more detailed studies into contaminated land, planning constraints and engagement with landowners to further refine the route options.



## Stage 4: Weaver Crossing

Following on from Stage 3, the final section of the Runcorn Spur Pipeline Proposed Development to be confirmed was the Weaver Crossing. Following design development and discussions with landowners, the River Weaver Crossing was refined to minimise the interaction with the proposed Frodsham Solar Farm. The Runcorn Spur Pipeline Proposed Development would therefore run parallel to the Manchester Ship Canal, then divert south to run parallel with Rake Lane.

# Land and landowners

As well as through this consultation, there are several ways that landowners and other interested parties have been able to participate in the consenting process – including through one-to-one meetings and community information events during the route optioneering and development process. We have a dedicated landowner engagement team in place to work with landowners throughout.

## Agreeing access for surveys

A key activity in commencing the design for the Runcorn Spur Pipeline Proposed Development was undertaking a variety of surveys, both non-intrusive and intrusive, across all potential spur pipeline routes. To do this, we needed access to land within the area of the Runcorn Spur Pipeline Proposed Development. We reached out to landowners and occupiers to request permission via access licence agreements to carry out the various surveys, which have been ongoing since 2024.

## Leasing parts of land

As the optioneering process defines a proposed route, certain areas of land will be required to successfully deliver the Runcorn Spur Pipeline Proposed Development.

We are working with affected landowners to reach voluntary land agreements within these defined areas. This involves an agreed set of Head of Terms detailing the land affected by the Runcorn Spur Pipeline Proposed Development and the commercial offering in respect of the proposed voluntary option for lease land agreement.



Image of Frodsham Wind Farm

## Keeping you safe during construction

During construction, we will take all precautions to keep everyone safe. There will be barriers around our temporary work areas and appropriate security in place. Should we encounter any unforeseen materials, we will remove and safely dispose of them.

As one of the conditions of the lease over landowners' land, an easement around the spur pipeline will be in place once it is installed. This is to prevent any development on top of it which could pose a safety risk to the spur pipeline. Farm tracks and vehicles, however, will be able to safely cross over the spur pipeline.

Once the work is complete, we will return the land as closely as possible to its original condition. We will replant or replace hedges or fences after construction where possible.

The planning applications will be supported by an Outline Environmental Management Plan (OEMP) and Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (OCTMP).

- **OEMP** – will set out the overarching management measures that seek to avoid and/or reduce potential environmental impacts during construction, as well as during later operation and decommissioning stages.
- **OCTMP** – will set out the measures to ensure any movement of plant or equipment is conducted in a safe and efficient manner, while minimising disruption to local communities. It will be continually monitored, reviewed and improved throughout the construction stage to ensure measures are being adhered to and that they remain appropriate throughout the construction stage.

## Traffic and access

Temporary access tracks will be established to facilitate the construction works. They will be established from the existing road network and will be set up to minimise disruption and local environmental impacts.

Open trenching is used across minor roads and tracks, while trenchless crossing will be used under Lordship Lane only. Safety for both methods will be managed by short term road closures, diversions or traffic management. Road closures in these areas are not likely to exceed two weeks.

## Construction compounds

Temporary construction compounds will be set up to facilitate construction activities, commissioning and landscaping works. The compounds will include:

- Offices and welfare facilities
- Parking
- Storage areas
- Lighting to ensure safe working conditions
- Temporary security fencing and other security arrangements as necessary
- Signage and access restrictions
- Drainage solutions

## Construction timeline and working hours

We anticipate that the construction of the entire spur pipeline will commence in 2027 and take approximately 23 months. The indicative construction programme is:

Activity	Start	Finish
Mobilisation and enabling works	Winter 2027	Spring 2027
Above ground pipeline installation – onshore	Spring 2027	Autumn 2027
Trenchless crossings	Spring 2027	Summer 2028
Runcorn AGI and Ince AGI Construction	Spring 2027	Autumn 2027
Above ground pipeline installation – barge (see pages 16-17 for details)	Spring 2028	Autumn 2028
Underground pipeline installation	Spring 2028	Autumn 2028
Pre-Commissioning	Autumn 2028	Winter 2028

Throughout construction, core working hours are likely to be from 8am to 6pm on weekdays (excluding bank holidays) and from 8am to 1pm on Saturdays.

Some locations where trenchless crossings are being carried out will require working 24 hours a day, but this will be for short periods.

# The construction process

The method of installing the buried spur pipelines will mostly be by the open-cut trench technique, with some areas requiring trenchless crossings. The section of proposed spur pipeline to the east of the River Weaver will be installed above ground.

The open-cut trench technique will involve digging soil to form a trench, lowering the pipe into the trench, and backfilling it with the excavated soil. This is shown in diagram 1. The depth of the trench will vary depending on technical factors such as ground conditions and topography.

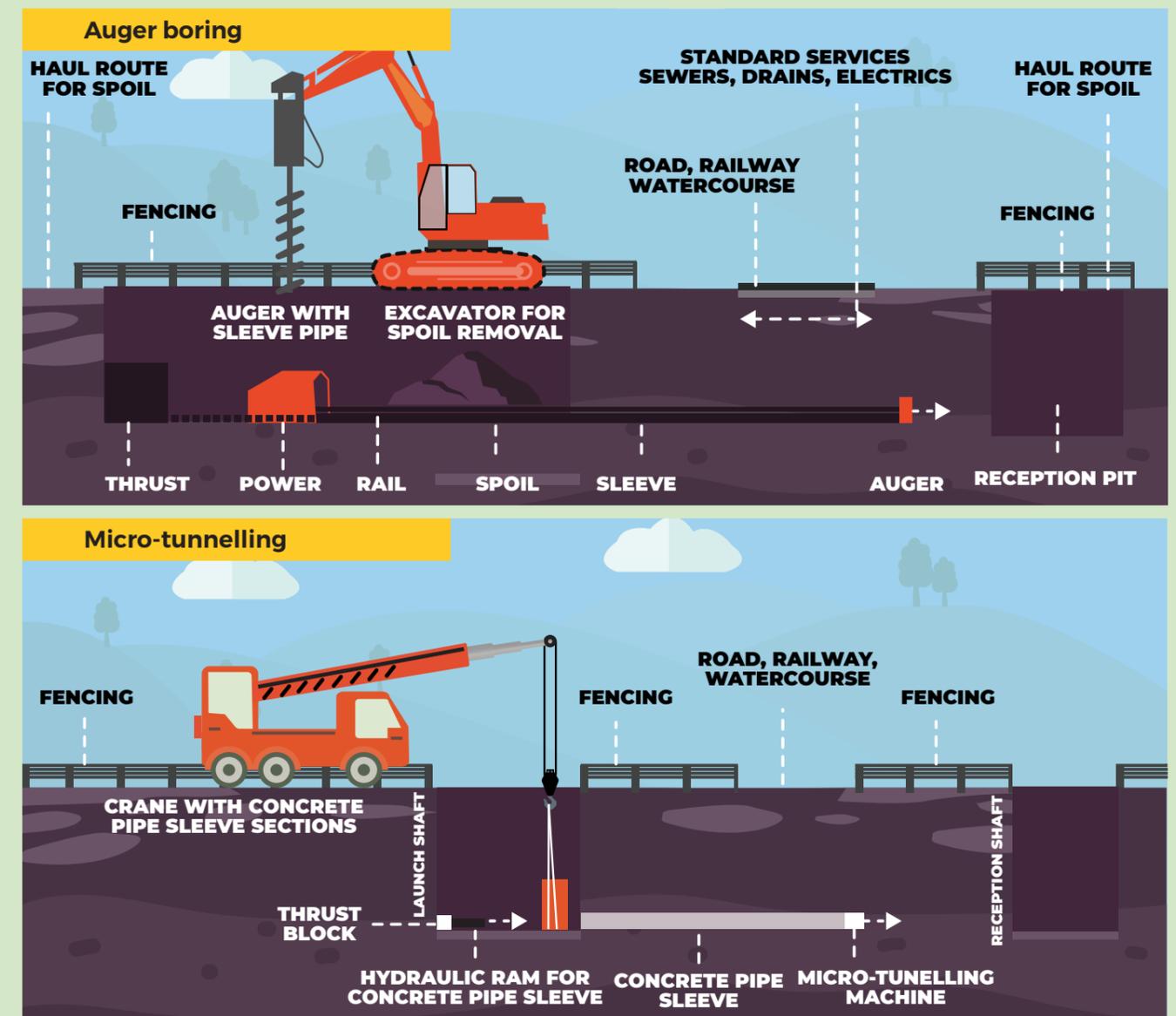
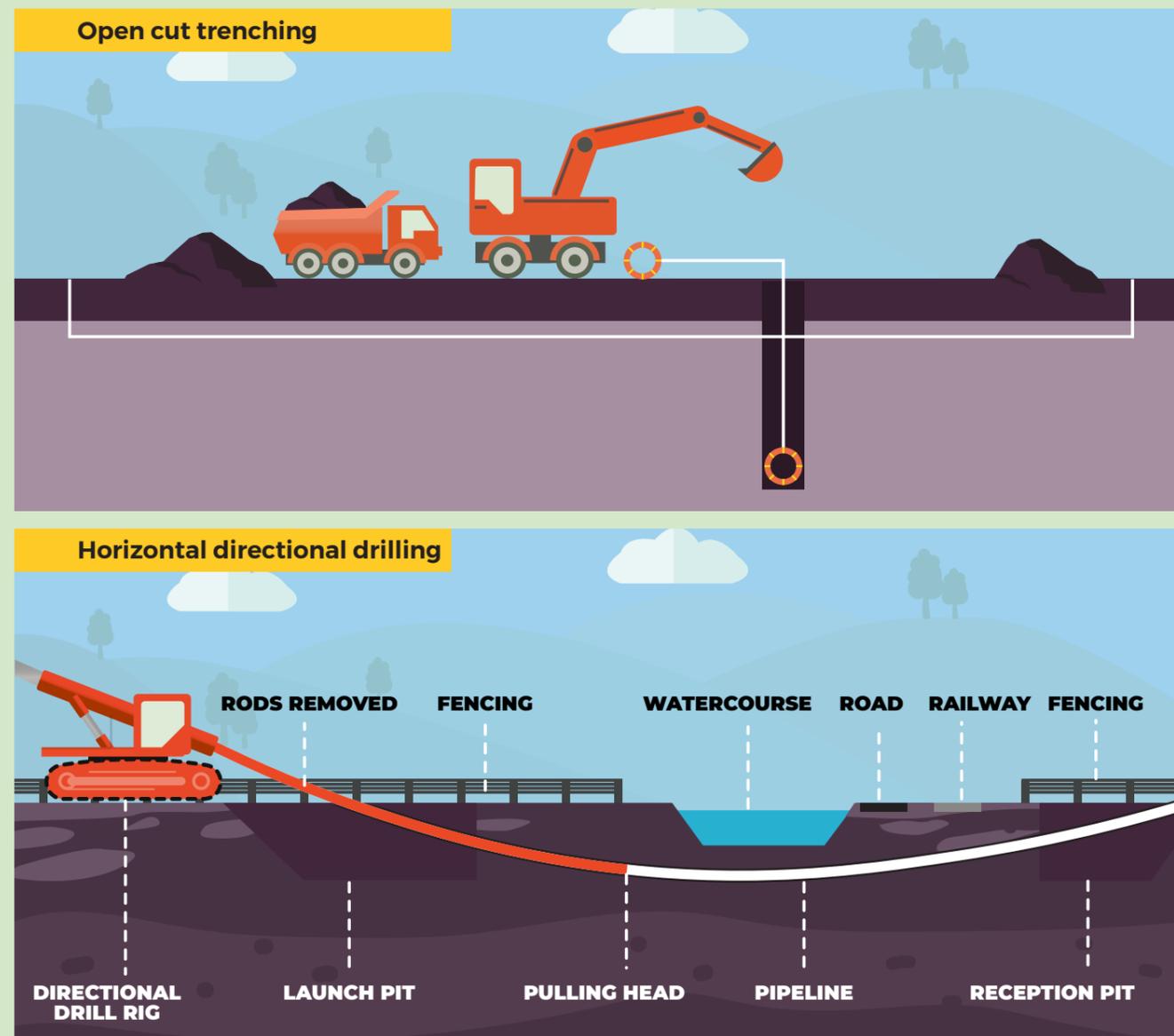
Trenchless techniques are used when installing pipelines under railway lines, major roads and riverbeds. In these cases, we will use methods such as horizontal directional drilling, auger boring, or micro-tunnelling. These techniques allow us to install the Runcorn Spur Pipeline Proposed Development while allowing roads and railways to remain open and rivers to continue flowing. These are shown in diagram 1. Trenchless techniques bury the pipeline at a greater depth than the open-cut technique and will depend on the nature of the feature being crossed.

The Runcorn Spur Pipeline Proposed Development will typically be buried at a minimum depth of 1.2m in open cut sections and deeper for trenchless crossings to avoid existing services and physical obstructions.

Although the pipeline is relatively small (it will be a maximum diameter of 20 inches or approximately 51cm), the space needed to safely install it will typically be 25-27m wide. This allows enough space to dig the trench and lay the pipe, as well as providing space for storing soil during installation and enabling access for vehicles. Additional space will be required in locations where we need to execute a trenchless crossing.

There are segments of above ground pipeline that are proposed to be installed from a river or canal construction barge from the Weaver Navigation Channel.

**Diagram 1**



## Operation, monitoring and decommissioning

LBCCS has extensive experience designing, building, and operating safe and effective high-pressure gas pipelines and it will use this expertise to develop the Runcorn Spur Pipeline Proposed Development to the highest safety standards.

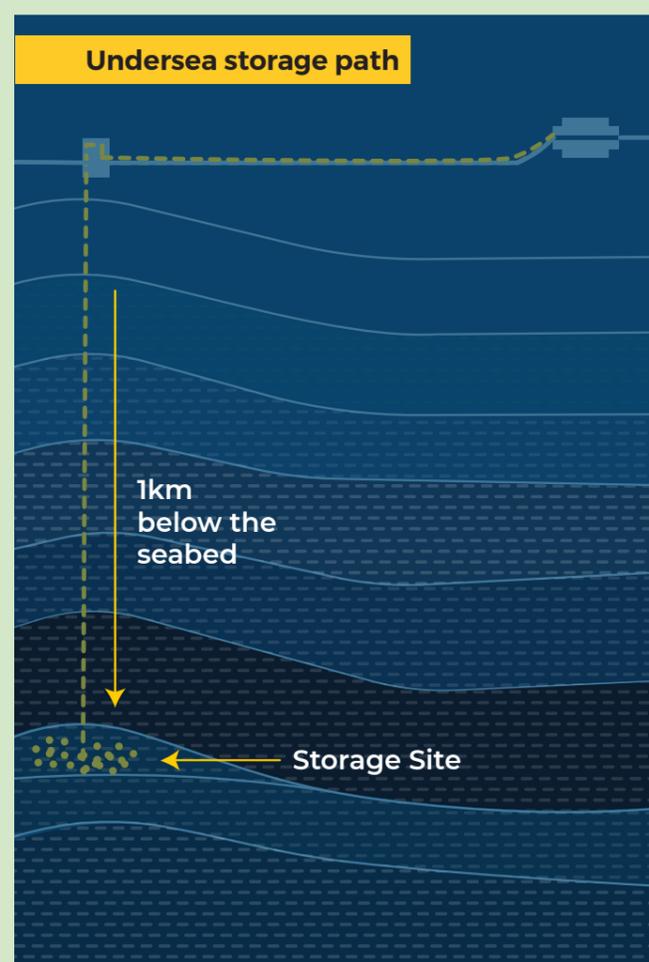
The UK is home to a range of high-hazard industries and has developed a world-class safety regulatory regime. The UK government regulates all CCS projects, its infrastructure and its operation. The safety of the Proposed Development will be regulated by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) and the North Sea Transition Authority (NSTA). Both regulatory bodies have a long track record of effectively regulating safety in the UK hydrocarbon sector.

LBCCS will carefully monitor the Proposed Development, throughout all the operation phases, CO<sub>2</sub> transportation, injection and safe containment within the reservoir, using state of the art techniques. **More information about monitoring, operation and decommissioning of the Runcorn Spur Pipeline Proposed Development is detailed on page 19.**

### Carbon dioxide storage

Gas has remained safely trapped in geological structures such as sandstone reservoirs, like the ones in Liverpool Bay, for millions of years. These reservoirs are deep below the surface of the seabed (see Diagram 2). The Liverpool Bay CO<sub>2</sub> store will be up to 1km below the seabed and approximately 20 miles offshore. Hundreds of metres of shale lie over the top of these sandstone reservoirs, making an impermeable layer which traps the gas in place. The CO<sub>2</sub> will be stored in the same way as the original natural gas and will remain safely contained in the sandstone reservoirs.

**Diagram 2**



The Runcorn Spur Pipeline Proposed Development has been designed to comply with well-established codes and standards, the applicable UK Regulations (including the Pipelines Safety Regulations 1996) and industry best practices. Together with detailed safety assessments, operation and integrity management systems, these will ensure the potential for any leakage of CO<sub>2</sub> is minimised and risks are as low as reasonably practicable.

### Monitoring

To ensure the safety of the offshore storage under Liverpool Bay, a programme of monitoring, measurement and evaluation will assess the behaviour and integrity of the CO<sub>2</sub> throughout the planned 25-year life span. This will include advanced methods such as geophysical surveys, pressure sensors, seabed surveys and specialised monitoring wells.

Monitoring and maintenance of the proposed spur pipeline will be regularly performed. The proposed spur pipeline network will be fitted with leak detection systems with early warning and remote identification ensuring that it can be safely managed in the event of any leakage. CO<sub>2</sub> point gas detectors will also be installed externally at the Runcorn AGI.

More information about monitoring the offshore storage site is available on the project website at [hynethub.co.uk/factsheets](https://hynethub.co.uk/factsheets)

### Operation and maintenance

Once the Runcorn Spur Pipeline Proposed Development is operational, it will not require permanent staffing or personnel presence. The AGI will be operated remotely and controlled from the Point of Ayr Terminal in Flintshire. However, the AGI will allow for in-person operation when required and will include emergency shut-down valves.

As there will be no onsite power-generating equipment at the AGI, the only active source of noise is expected to be the Electrical and Instrumentation (E&I) Kiosk, which will be mounted with air conditioning units.

Routine maintenance of the AGI is expected to be minor and consists of lubrication, and calibration of instruments.

### Decommissioning

The infrastructure for the Runcorn Spur Pipeline Proposed Development is designed for a lifespan of 25 years. Once it has ceased to be operational, the Runcorn Spur Pipeline Proposed Development will be decommissioned safely, filled with nitrogen and left in-situ. Nitrogen is an inert gas which prevents corrosion of the pipeline.

The above-ground facilities associated with the AGI and Runcorn Spur Pipeline Proposed Development will be decommissioned and preserved in line with industry best practices and facility owner requirements at the time of decommissioning.



**View of Manchester Ship Canal**

# Environmental Impact Assessment

As part of the planning process, an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is being carried out to understand the likely effects that the Runcorn Spur Pipeline Proposed Development would have on the environment. The EIA considers the potential effects of the construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of the Runcorn Spur Pipeline Proposed Development. An EIA is commissioned by the developer but is undertaken by independent and suitably qualified environmental specialists.

**There are three key stages to the EIA process:**

1

Gathering information and data on the area as it currently stands, for example to understand the local wildlife that is present in the local area. This includes field surveys, the majority of which are now complete.

2

The extent of the issues and topics to be considered as part of the EIA is described in a Scoping Report. For this project, the EIA Scoping Report was submitted to Halton Borough Council and Cheshire West and Chester Council for review in April 2024. Each local authority subsequently provided its opinions in July 2024.

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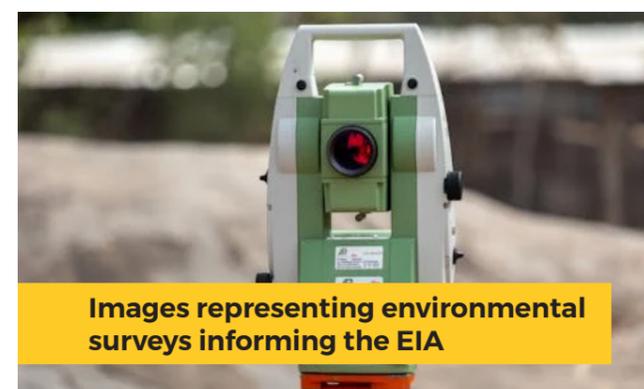
An Environmental Statement is being prepared, taking on board feedback from the consultation and describing the findings of the assessment. It will describe the effects we have identified as part of the assessment, and how we have sought to avoid, reduce and minimise these impacts as part of the final design.

The Environmental Statement will be an important document in our planning application for this project. A summary of the information that will be included in the Environmental Statement is available for you to read on our website.

# Environmental topics

The EIA considers several topics as well as any steps that are necessary to ensure potential effects on the environment as a result of the Runcorn Spur Pipeline Proposed Development are minimised. These topics include:

- Air quality
  - Climate change
  - Cultural heritage and archaeology
  - Ecology and biodiversity
    - Designated Sites
    - Priority habitats including trees and hedgerows
    - Protected species
    - Biodiversity net gain
  - Land and soils
  - Landscape and views
  - Noise and vibration
  - Traffic and transport
  - Water environment and flooding
  - Mitigation and safety measures
  - Cumulative effects
- Cumulative effects consider effects from the Runcorn Spur Pipeline Proposed Development on the same receptor at the same time. Cumulative effects also consider the effects from the Runcorn Spur Pipeline Proposed Development and other separate developments which may affect the same receptor, either at the same time or over a prolonged period. Receptors are the features of the environment that could be affected by a development. For example people living or working in the area, wildlife, watercourses or human health.



**Images representing environmental surveys informing the EIA**

The environmental impact assessments are still in progress, so we have included a technical note on the EIA work carried out so far as part of our consultation materials. The Runcorn Spur Pipeline Environmental Consultation Technical Note, available on the website at [hynethub.co.uk/runcorn](https://hynethub.co.uk/runcorn) provides an update on the EIA process carried out so far on the Runcorn Spur Pipeline Proposed Development.

It has been produced to provide stakeholders and members of the local community with the most up-to-date information on the activities carried out, and what further assessments will be undertaken, so that they can provide an informed response to the Applicant's pre-application consultation.

The full outcomes of the EIA will be included in the Environmental Statement, to be submitted as part of the Planning Application, which we plan to submit to Cheshire West and Chester Council and Halton Borough Council in Summer 2025.

## The planning process

The Runcorn Spur Pipeline Proposed Development lies across two local authority boundaries; Halton Borough Council and Cheshire West and Chester Council. To gain consent to build the Runcorn Spur Pipeline Proposed Development, Liverpool Bay CCS Limited (the Applicant), will prepare planning applications to be submitted under the Town and County Planning Act 1990 (as amended) to Cheshire West and Chester Council and Halton Borough Council in Summer 2025.

### Planning stage

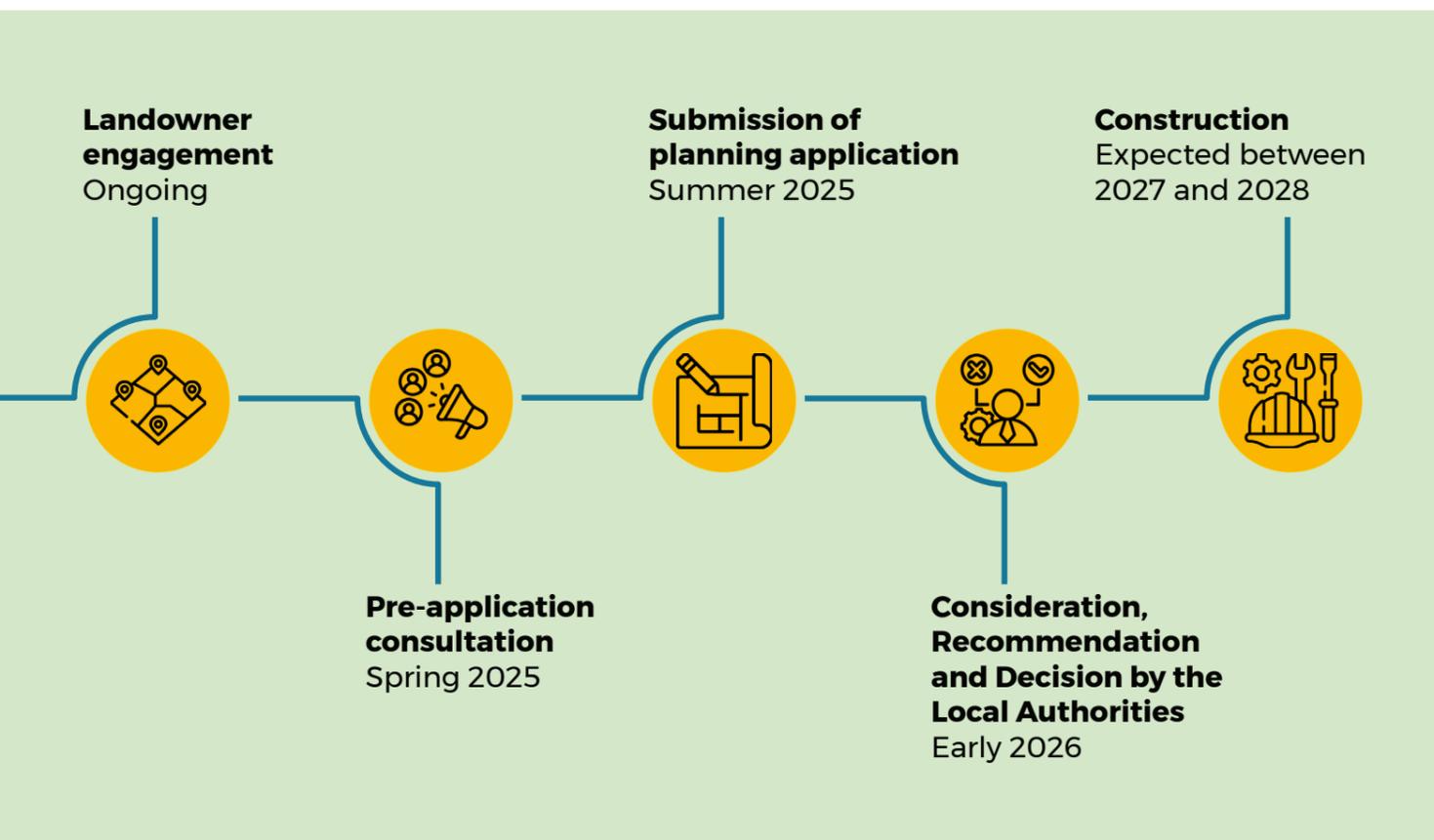
The Runcorn Spur Pipeline Proposed Development is currently in its pre-planning application phase. We carried out early engagement with stakeholders and the local community in 2024, through stakeholder briefings and a community information event.

We are now carrying out a full consultation period, where we are providing more detailed information and asking for feedback through a survey. This feedback is important to us and will help inform our planning applications.

### Post-submission stage

Once the applications have been submitted to Halton Borough Council and Cheshire West and Chester Council, you will have another opportunity to have your say directly to your relevant local authority.

## Timeline



## What happens next

We are keen to involve the local community and our stakeholders at every stage of the process for the Runcorn Spur Pipeline Proposed Development. We want to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to have their say on how we develop the best project for local communities, the surrounding landscape and the environment.

Through this consultation we want to gather local insight into the area and understand how the Runcorn Spur Pipeline Proposed Development might affect you. This feedback will inform how the plans and mitigation measures progress to ensure we can deliver the best development possible.

## Have your say

This public consultation provides you with the opportunity to have your say and provide feedback on the plans for the Runcorn Spur Pipeline Proposed Development.

Your views are important to us and will inform the necessary amendments.

This consultation will run from . Please ensure all feedback is received by 10 April to ensure it is considered.

### Meet the team:

As part of the consultation, we're holding a series of public events. They offer a great opportunity to meet the development team and ask any questions you may have.

### Consultation events:

Saturday 15 March from 11am to 3pm at Christ Church Hall, WA7 4EU

Tuesday 18 March from 6.30pm to 7.30pm - **online**

Friday 28 March from 2pm to 6pm at Christ Church Hall, WA7 4EU

Saturday 29 March from 11am to 3pm at Elton Community Centre, CH2 4PU

Wednesday 2 April from 2pm to 6pm at Helsby Sports Club, WA6 0FX

Friday 4 April from 12.30pm to 1.30pm - **online**

**You can register for the online events on our website or get in touch with the team on the details opposite.**

### You can provide your feedback on the plans for the Runcorn Spur Pipeline Proposed Development by:



Visiting the project website:  
[hynethub.co.uk/runcorn](https://hynethub.co.uk/runcorn)

You can submit your feedback on our online feedback form.



Sending written feedback to our freepost address: **Freepost LBCCS**

Write us a letter or send us a hard copy of the feedback form. Feedback forms will be available at the events or by request. You don't need a stamp.



Sending an email to:  
[hello@hynethub.co.uk](mailto:hello@hynethub.co.uk)



Image of consultation event

If you would like a hard copy version of this brochure or other materials available online, you can contact us using the details below. This brochure can also be made available in large print, braille or other languages upon request.



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