

INTRODUCTION

The Runcorn Carbon Dioxide Spur Pipeline Proposed Development forms part of the wider HyNet Project and is focused on Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS). The objectives of HyNet are to reduce carbon dioxide emissions from industry and support economic growth in north Wales and the north west of England.

The Proposed Development will connect to the HyNet Carbon Dioxide Pipeline, a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project which was granted a Development Consent Order by the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero in March 2024.

RUNCORN SPUR PIPELINE

The Runcorn Carbon Dioxide Spur Pipeline Proposed Development will be approximately 10km 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).

This is an outline of how the route from the Viridor Energy from Waste facility to the HyNet CO₂ pipeline connection at the Ince AGI was determined.

STAGE 1: DEVELOPMENT OF THE ROUTE CORRIDOR

To determine a corridor of land that could house the 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 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 ROUTE OPTIONS

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

1. From the Runcorn AGI to the River Weaver – During this section the 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 and Viridor Carbon Capture Plant.
2. Crossing at the River Weaver – Several crossing scenarios have been considered based on technical considerations, such as land contamination, soil quality, planning permissions and discussions with landowners.
3. River Weaver to the Ince AGI – Three options have been considered for this section from Weaver Lane and south of Frodsham Wind Farm.

STAGE 3: REFINING OF THE PROPOSED ROUTE OPTION

To identify an ideal route, pre-determined constraints, such as ecological sites, heritage assets, historic landfill and permitted waste areas, were fed into a digital mapping tool which produced a series of maps, narrowing down the route options. The team reviewed contaminated land and technical engineering constraints, in addition to carrying out discussions with landowners and commercial operators, to further develop the proposed route option.

For more information about the HyNet Carbon Capture and Storage project please visit our website hynethub.co.uk or email our team at hello@hynethub.co.uk

- ▶ The diagram shows a red line area refined during Stage 2: Development of Route Options within which construction will take place.

