



# Humber Hydrogen Pipeline

## Programme Document

### APPLICANT NAME

HUMBER HYDROGEN TRANSMISSION SYSTEM LTD

### PLANNING INSPECTORATE REFERENCE

EN0710006

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## 1. Introduction

This Programme Document sets out the applicant’s planned approach to the pre-application stage of the Development Consent Order (DCO) process, outlining how engagement, consultation, and document preparation will be managed in collaboration with the Planning Inspectorate and key stakeholders.

It is intended to provide a transparent and structured overview of the programme, assisting all parties in understanding the anticipated activities, timelines, and decision points. The document follows the required format and structure developed by the Planning Inspectorate to ensure consistency and reliability in the way that programming is recorded and delivered.

## 2. Background to the project

Humber Hydrogen Pipeline (HHP) is a proposed underground pipeline which will transport hydrogen between production plants, users and a storage facility. HHP comprises circa 54 km pipeline and associated infrastructure including hydrogen above ground installations covering the Holderness Region to south-east of Hull. The pipeline includes a crossing of the River Humber enabling a future connection to the hydrogen users and producers across North Lincolnshire. HHP is developed by the Humber Hydrogen Transmission System (HHTS) Ltd. which is a partnership between National Gas Transmission, Equinor, SSE Thermal, and Centrica.

HHP comprises a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) and authorisation will be sought by way of a Development Consent Order (DCO). This Programme Document has been prepared in accordance with the “Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: 2024: Pre-Application Prospectus”<sup>1</sup>.

## 3. The Planning Inspectorate’s pre-application service

The preapplication tier service that HHP has subscribe to is Tier 1: Basic

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects-2024-pre-application-prospectus>, as accessed on February, 2026

## 4. The pre-application programme

The current DCO schedule is presented below. It sets out the key project milestones that must be met in order to complete the pre-application process. The programme will be updated and refined throughout the pre-application phase of the project.

Timescale	Activity
Q1 2025	Introductory meetings with Host Authorities, PINS and other stakeholders
Q2 2025	Non-Statutory Consultation
Q1 2026	Project update meeting with PINS
Q1 2026	Review of Environmental Constraints and Engineering Constructability Review of Project Route Corridor.
Q1 2026	Submission of the Request for Scoping Opinion
Q2 2026	Publication of Scoping Opinion
Q2 2026	Review of Scoping Opinion related to project design, and update of Project Description for PEIR.
Q2/Q3 2026	Agreement with pertinent stakeholders regarding scope of surveys to inform the ES.
Q2/Q3 2026	Preparation of Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC), SoCC consultation and review feedback
Q2 2026 to Q2 2027	Preparation of PEIR
Q2 2027	Statutory consultation in accordance with S.42 and S.47 (including notifications under S.48, S46)
Q2 2027	Preparation of DCO documents (including draft HRA and draft consultation report) and submission to PINS for review
Q3 2027	Preparation of adequacy of consultation milestone report and submission to PINS for review
Q2 2027	Review of Statutory Consultation feedback in relation to the design of the Proposed Development, and update of Project Description.
Q2 2027 to Q4 2027	Preparation of Environmental Statement

Timescale	Activity
December 2027	DCO Application Submission
Q2-Q4 2028	DCO Examination
Q4 2028-Q1 2029	Recommendation and Decision

## 5. Main issues for resolution

The project is at an early stage of development. Some of the anticipated main issues that will require resolution are set out below. This will be updated as the project develops:

- Agreement with third party landowners on the required land rights. Engagement with third party landowners is ongoing.
- The community impact and cumulative effects associated with other projects planned within the same area.
- The impact of construction traffic.
- Interactions with existing assets along the proposed pipeline corridor (including utilities).
- Land Use Planning and interaction with the Health and Safety Executive.
- Consultation with the Control of Major Accident Hazards (COMAH) Competent Authority to facilitate engagement in the DCO process both pre-application and post-application.
- Agreement with East Riding of Yorkshire District Council, North Lincolnshire District Council and the Health & Safety Executive and the Planning Inspectorate on the content of the application for Hazardous Substances Consent.
- Agreement with third party landowners on the required land rights, including a lease from the Crown Estate.

HHP will be producing a 'potential main issues for examination' document for submission with the application, where any unresolved topics will be identified.

## 6. Engaging local authorities and with statutory bodies

HHP is located within the administrative areas of East Riding of Yorkshire District Council and North Lincolnshire District Council, with whom PPAs are currently being agreed.

In addition to the host authorities, there are several other key strategic stakeholders with whom the Project team will engage including (but not exclusively) Natural England, the Environment Agency, Historic England, and the Health and Safety Executive (HSE). Local stakeholders include Humber Archaeological Partnership, Aldbrough Community Liaison Group, Parish Councils and Single Conversation Group.

The Project team seeks to engage proactively with host authorities and other key stakeholders through:

- Establishment of regular meetings.
- Establishment of a cost recovery mechanism (Planning Performance Agreement or equivalent) for the host authorities and other key consultees.

- Establishment of technical meetings covering environmental topics.
- Input into the consultation strategy and Statement of Community Consultation.

## 7. Pre-application risks

The risks to the project will emerge as the project develops and feedback from statutory consultees and members of the public becomes available. Some of the emerging risks are set out in the table below.

Risk	Tracking and Management
Securing land access for surveys	Land agents to manage and record interactions with landowners
Managing competing land interests for same land parcels	Engagement with landowners to understand development aspirations. Discussions with other projects Widen Order Limits where relevant.
Consultation fatigue in the community	Continue discussions and collaboration with other developers in the area and adopt best practices for engaging with the communities
Stakeholder resourcing	Provide details of project programme to consultees. Establishment of PPA's and cost recovery mechanisms.
Emerging and maturing government policy surrounding hydrogen infrastructure along with stakeholder guidance on hydrogen regulation	Ongoing discussions with Government including the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero and stakeholders including the HSE.
Emerging Stakeholder Guidance	Engagement plans with key stakeholders such as Natural England