



SECURING A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

PHASE 1 CONSULTATION FAQs

February 2026

YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

We'd like to thank everyone who has participated in our first consultation on our early plans for Peak Cluster. Over the last few weeks, we've run webinars and drop-in events. During this time we've met hundreds of people to discuss, and answer questions about, the project.

In this newsletter, we've collected and answered the most commonly asked questions we've received throughout the consultation. We've also updated the '[your questions answered](#)' section of our website with more questions that we've heard. We'll continue to regularly update this as the project progresses.



SHARE YOUR FEEDBACK

Your feedback is important to us and will help us to refine our proposals ahead of our phase 2 consultation later this year. You can share your feedback using our [online feedback form](#) or by emailing consultation@peakcluster.co.uk.

The phase 1 consultation closes on 27th February 2026. We're also planning further engagement on our proposals for the Wirral including a public meeting and more opportunities to provide feedback. This additional activity will begin in late March and we'll share more information on this soon.

CONSULTATION CLOSSES AT 11:59PM ON 27TH FEBRUARY 2026

► FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



► Why can't you share more detail about the project?

When designing large infrastructure projects, like Peak Cluster, consulting with those who live and work around the project area allows insight, information and views to be gathered. By working together early in the process, communities, landowners and stakeholders can feed in to help shape our plans before we decide on our preferred route and associated infrastructure locations. Your views matter and by engaging now, we're able to gather valuable insight to help shape our proposals.

Because we're still in this listening and information gathering stage, our plans for the project are evolving, and we do not yet have details to share on all aspects of the project.

As a result, the information we can provide at this stage—particularly on the route and associated infrastructure—remains at a high level and we're not able to fully answer some of the enquiries we've received. However, these will become clearer as the project continues to develop.

Over the coming months, we'll use the feedback we've heard during this consultation, alongside further engineering and environmental studies, to continue to build our proposals for the project.

We'll hold a more detailed phase 2 consultation later in the year, at which point, we'll have more specific information on our plans to share.

► How would you build the pipeline over land?

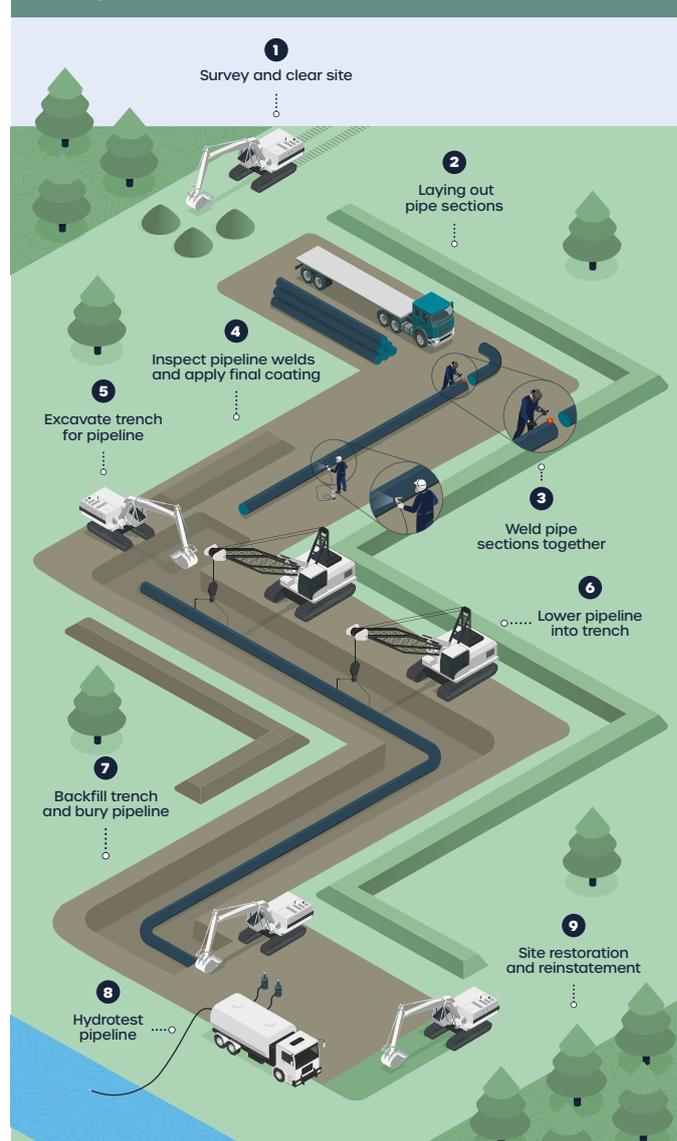
The majority of the onshore pipeline would be built using 'open trenching' methods, this involves:

- surveying and clearing the site
- laying out pipe sections
- welding the pipe sections together
- inspecting pipeline welds and applying final coating
- excavating a trench for the pipeline
- lowering the pipeline into the trench
- backfilling the trench and burying the pipeline
- hydrotesting the pipeline (pressure testing with water)
- undertaking site restoration and reinstatement.

The area within which we'd lay the pipeline (the 'working width') would be around 30–40m. This provides a safe area for those laying the pipe to work within, and room for construction vehicles.

You can find out more about the construction process by watching our animation [here](#).

A diagram of the pipeline construction sequence



▶ FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



▶ How long would you take to build the pipeline?

We'd build the pipeline in sections, ensuring the trench in which we'd bury the pipeline is open for as little time as possible for any individual section.

Because of the weather, typically sections would be completed between April and October. The bulk of construction works would be much shorter than this in any one location, however the working width would remain open to construction traffic throughout the whole summer season to minimise disruption on local roads.

We'll work during the winter months in areas where we'll use trenchless techniques to build the pipeline, and where we'll build Above Ground Installations or Block Valve Stations.

We'll set up main works compounds to store materials and equipment, which may be in situ for the duration of the construction period (up to three years). The proposed locations for these are yet to be decided.

You can find out more about the construction process [here](#).

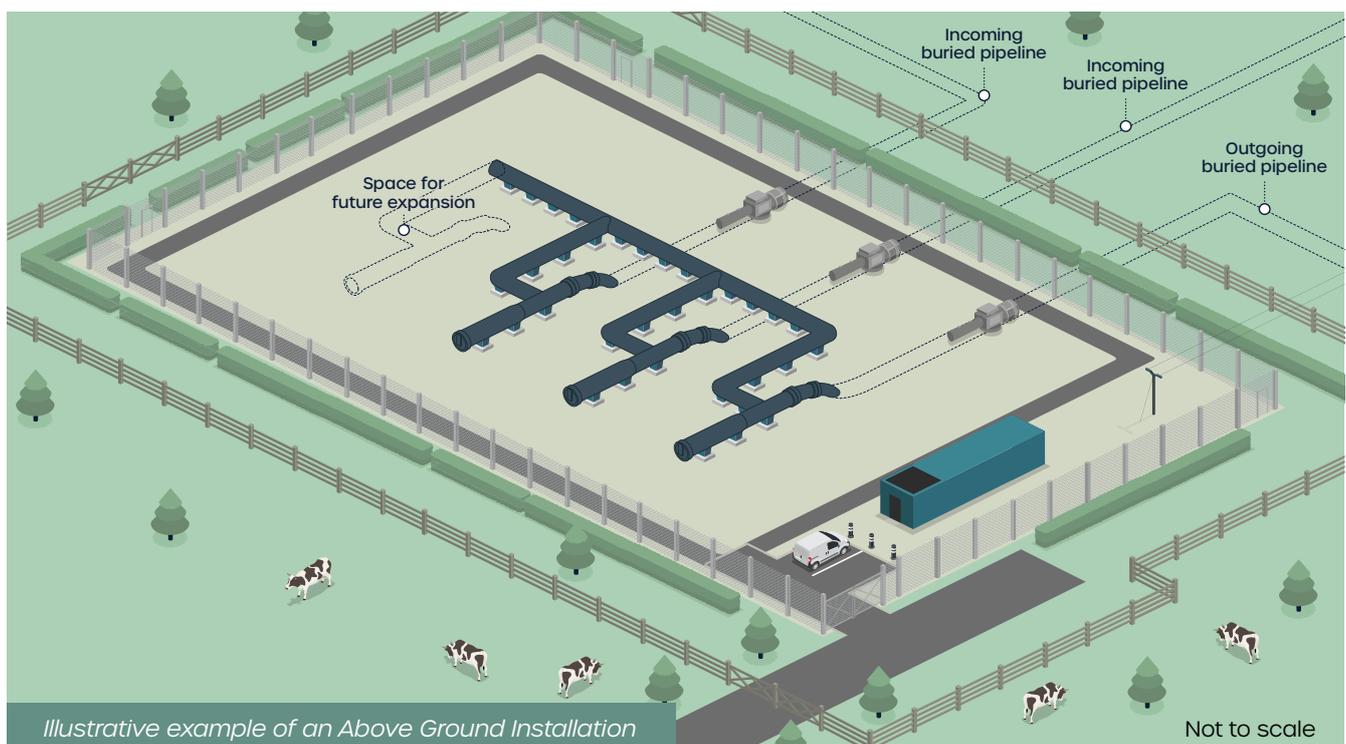
Depending on the construction techniques chosen, construction between the AGI at the end of the Wirral and the shoreline would expect to take around 9-12 months.

▶ How big is a typical Above Ground Installation (AGI) and Block Valve Station (BVS)? And what would they look like?

Whilst each of the connection and capture facility AGIs would be different, their maximum footprint is likely be around 100m x 100m – about the same size as one and a half football pitches. A typical BVS is around 50m x 50m.

Both BVS and AGI sites would likely contain waist-high pipework; a single story electrical, control and

instrumentation kiosk; and space for working vehicle access. The sites would be enclosed by a chain-link or palisade fence and would likely be screened from view by landscaping or hedgerow planting.



Illustrative example of an Above Ground Installation

Not to scale

▶ FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



▶ How big is the Coastal AGI at the end of the Wirral and what would it look like?

We're currently exploring two possible search areas for the Coastal AGI on the northern part of the Wirral Peninsula:

- the landfall zone; and
- the inland zone.

The Coastal AGI would require a maximum site area of around 300m x 180m (excluding access). This means it would occupy around 10% of the landfall zone, or around 4% of the inland zone.

We would expect the Coastal AGI to include a compressor, associated equipment, and a chimney or vent stack. The stack could be up to 50m high and around one metre wide. The Coastal AGI will comprise buildings and above ground structures, which will be no higher than 15m high (approximately 4–5 storeys). The vent stack is used only during occasional maintenance to safely remove CO₂ from the Coastal AGI equipment and local pipeline. It would not be used to vent CO₂ from the entire pipeline.

In addition to this core equipment, the 300m x 180m site would also include:

- lighting, parking and safe access facilities
- new or upgraded utility connections
- landscaping and drainage areas
- staff welfare and maintenance facilities
- control kiosk housing electrical equipment
- above and belowground pipework and valves
- instrumentation and sensors for monitoring and safe operation.

Together, this infrastructure supports the safe, efficient and continuous operation of the Coastal AGI.



► FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



► How was the pipeline route chosen?

The route of the pipeline is an iterative process. As such, we anticipate there will be changes to the final proposed pipeline route, informed by the feedback we receive during our consultations and our ongoing environmental and engineering studies.

To develop the proposed scoping corridor, which will connect the cement and lime plants in Derbyshire and Staffordshire to the Morecambe Net Zero (MNZ) stores in the East Irish Sea, initially the Peak Cluster and MNZ teams used publicly available data to identify and consider the best options.

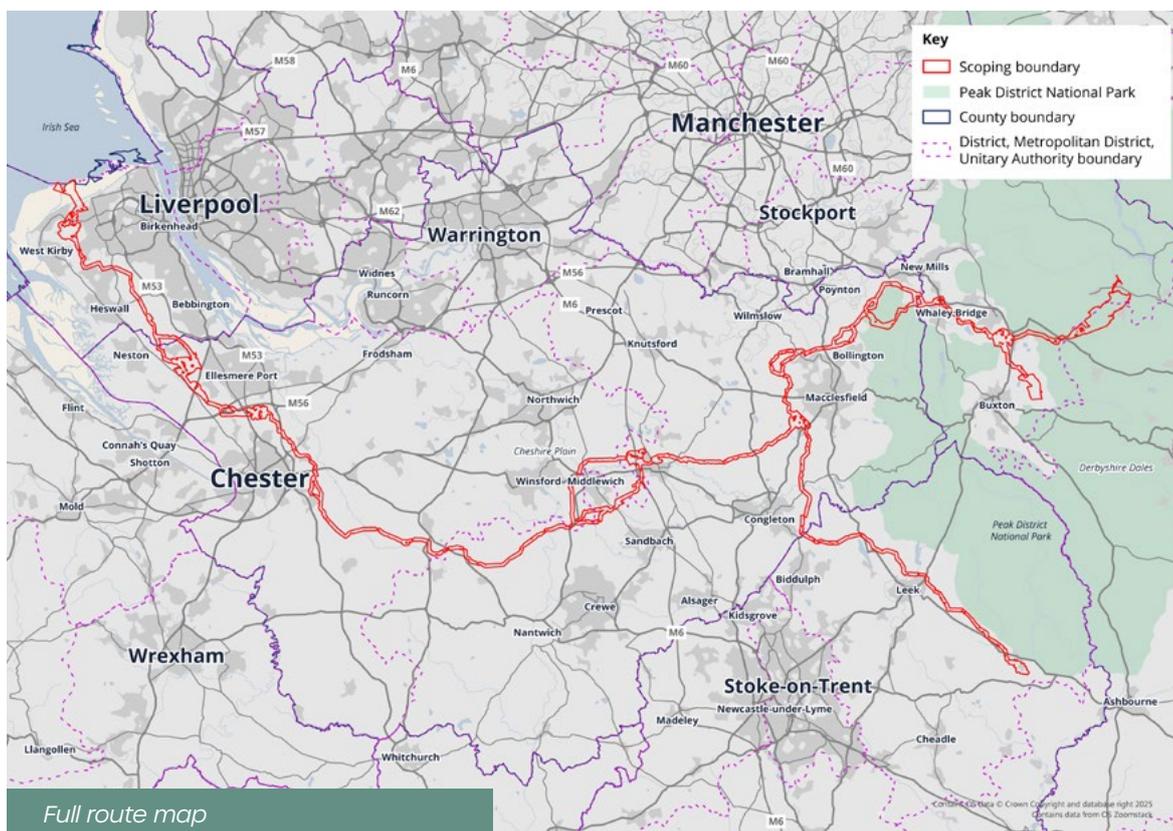
We investigated the entire coastline from North Wales to Cumbria to identify suitable locations for the onshore pipeline to connect to offshore infrastructure. We then mapped any constraints (things that may influence the project location) between the capture plants and the potential shore areas. These constraints included:

- existing built-up areas
- topography
- ecologically designated sites
- scheduled monuments
- listed buildings
- other factors which are identifiable using national level records and databases.

When we completed this review and accounted for these constraints, we arrived at the route shown in the phase 1 consultation.

We recognise that national-level data alone cannot provide all of the information that we need to finalise the pipeline route. That's why we're consulting at this early stage of the design process. The consultation will enable us to gather important feedback from stakeholders, communities and landowners. We'll use this feedback, alongside our ongoing environmental and engineering studies, to refine the route and develop more detailed proposals for the next stage of consultation. This will include:

- refining the potential pipeline corridor to 100m
- identifying more specific locations for above ground infrastructure
- defining any temporary construction requirements such as compounds and off route access roads.



► FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



► Is the pipeline and infrastructure safe? And how would you monitor for potential leaks?

Gas and liquids have been transported using pipelines for over 100 years in the UK. There are currently around 27,000km of high-pressure pipelines carrying natural gas and a range of other fluids, including aviation fuel, ethylene and other chemical products. The practice is very well-established and robustly regulated, and the UK has a global reputation for safety in this field.

Our engineering design meets recognised standards and regulations, established best practice and proven design methods and robust control safety measures to ensure risks are minimised to levels accepted by the Health and Safety Executive and the Environment Agency. As with the UK's high-pressure natural gas pipelines, the Peak Cluster CO₂ pipelines are being designed to BS PD8010 standards. These standards ensure our pipeline design considers an extensive list of risk factors including corrosion risk, third party damage, proximity to communities, flooding, ground movement and so on.

We're also implementing industry leading leak-detection technologies along the pipeline. This would likely be a Distributed Fibre Optic Sensor (DFOS) system or similar, which would run the full length of the pipeline.

It's worth noting that this live-monitoring technology is not used on the older natural-gas networks, so it represents a significant step forward in monitoring capability. It would allow us to detect issues in real time and quickly isolate sections of the pipeline, using the relevant block valves, if needed.

► Is carbon capture and storage new?

Carbon capture and storage (CCS) technology has been used since the early 1970s and there are more than 8,000 km of CO₂ pipelines operating globally. Globally, there are more than 600 CCS projects - either in development, or operating. The UK's first two CCS projects, HyNet in Cheshire and North Wales and East Coast Cluster in Teesside, are both in construction.

► How much carbon will be emitted when you build the project?

It was important to us to establish the carbon impact of the project versus the carbon emissions we could remove from the environment. Whilst we cannot know the exact carbon impact of delivering Peak Cluster until we've developed a full design, we've carried a preliminary carbon life cycle assessment. This is a report which considers all the equipment and materials we're likely to need to build the project, and identifies the 'embedded carbon' (which means the total CO₂ emissions from the entire life cycle of a product—from raw material extraction and manufacturing to transport

and disposal). It also considers the 'operational carbon' (or the carbon likely to be emitted as part of the construction process). The report then compared these figures to the carbon savings the project will likely deliver by capturing carbon emissions from the cement and lime manufacturing process. The results showed us that although developing Peak Cluster would create carbon dioxide, the drop in CO₂ from more sustainable cement and lime production would balance this out very quickly—likely within a few months.

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SHARE YOUR FEEDBACK ON OUR CONSULTATION HUB.

GET IN TOUCH

If you'd like to talk to a team member about the project you can get in touch in the following ways:



Website: www.peakcluster.co.uk



Phone: 0800 0129 167 (freephone)



Email: consultation@peakcluster.co.uk



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