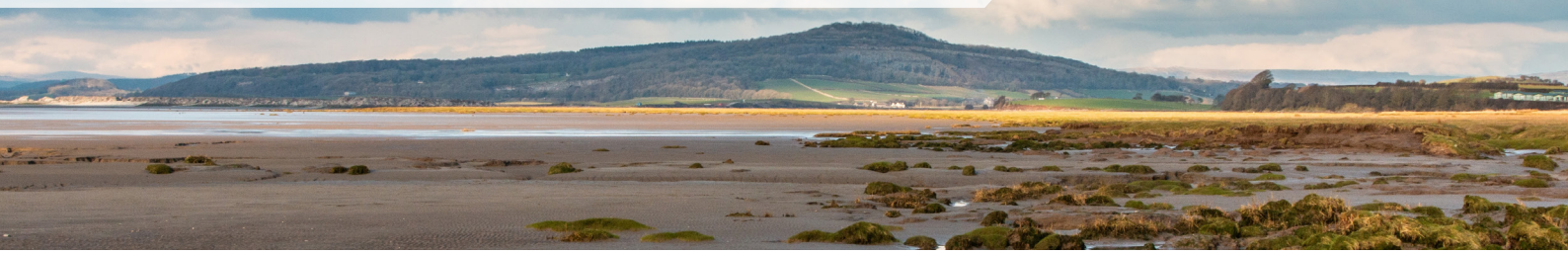
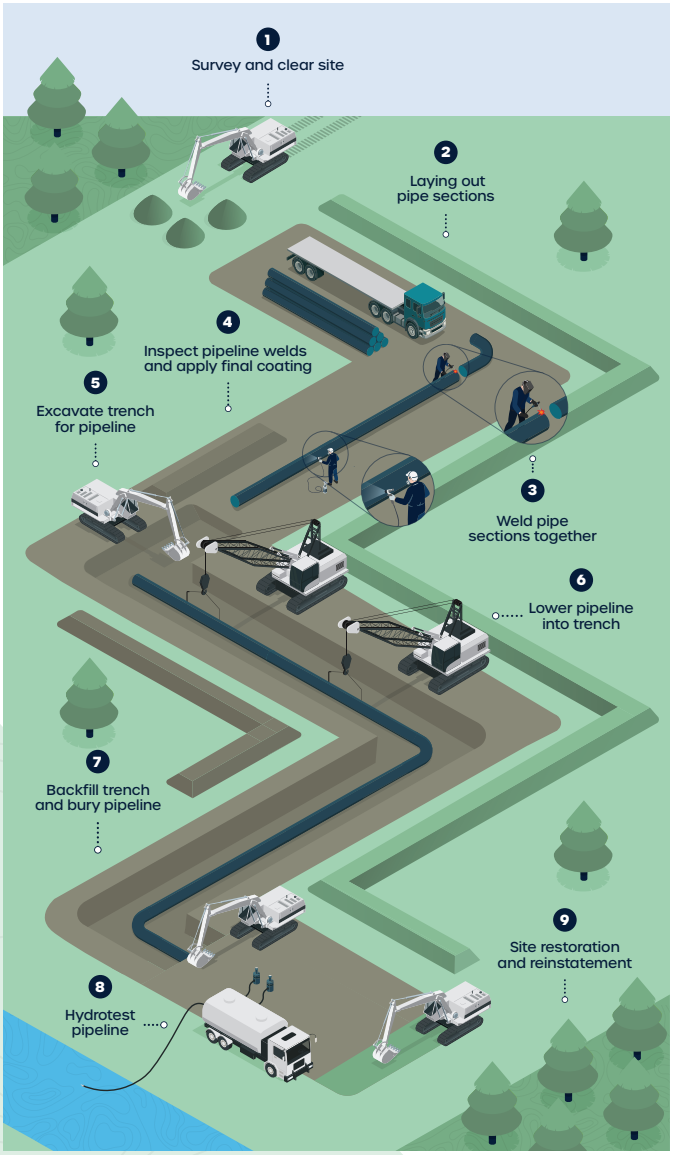
PEAK CLUSTER

THE PIPELINE AND HOW WE'D BUILD IT



AN OVERVIEW OF THE PIPELINE AND ITS PROPERTIES

The Peak Cluster pipeline would transport captured carbon dioxide (CO_2) from cement and lime plants in Staffordshire and Derbyshire to the coast, ready to be transferred to the Morecambe Net Zero offshore storage site beneath the East Irish Sea.



The onshore pipeline would be around 200 km long, up to 36 inch in diameter (91.4 cm) and made from high-grade carbon steel.

The pipeline would be buried at a minimum depth of 1.2 metres to the top (crown) of the pipe, or below the depth of normal agricultural activity, whichever is deeper. In areas of shallow rock, we may reduce this depth to a minimum of 0.5 metres below ground level.

The pipeline would generally follow the natural contours of the ground and would pass beneath any existing infrastructure or watercourse. This means in many places the pipeline would be buried deeper than 1.2 metres.

The pipelines would be made from steel and designed to meet British standards.

We've currently identified a wide corridor (approximately 300m) and additional areas within which Peak Cluster infrastructure would be built (although this would not take up the whole area shown on our maps).

Open trench construction

The onshore section of the Peak Cluster pipeline would primarily be built using open trench construction, where a trench is excavated, the pipe sections are laid and welded together, inspected and coated, then lowered into the trench and backfilled. The pipeline in shallow water will be trenched and backfilled after it has been pulled through the landfall from offshore. This method is well established and is regularly used in rural and protected areas, allowing safe installation while following natural ground contours. To build the pipeline in this way, we'll establish a "working width" of 30–40m along most of the route, which would extend to around 50m from the coastal AGI to landfall. This provides a safe area for those laying the pipe to work within and room for construction vehicles.

Managing potential disruption

The Peak Cluster pipeline would be constructed using carefully managed methods to ensure safety and minimise disruption. Prior to starting construction, we would complete an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), which would consider potential effects from construction, including traffic disruption, noise and air quality. We would work with the relevant authorities to agree suitable mitigation measures, which would be secured within the Development Consent Order (DCO) and must be adhered to. This work is ongoing, and we will be able to share much more detail at the next stage of consultation.

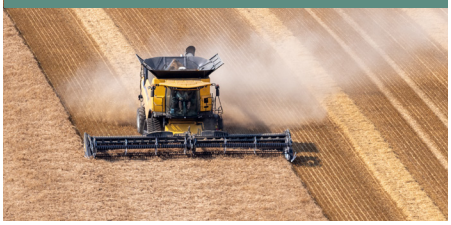
Other construction methods

In areas where trenching isn't possible—such as railway crossings, through ancient woodland or under seawalls as the pipeline goes offshore—trenchless installation techniques such as horizontal directional drilling, auger boring, or micro-tunnelling may be used.

After construction

After construction, the onshore pipeline, and that built in shallow water would be fully buried and the land restored as closely as possible to its original use. While much of the land directly above the pipeline can be returned to its previous use, certain restrictions will apply.

- ✓ Normal agricultural activity (crops, grazing)
- ✓ Farm tracks, fences, drystone walls, hedgerows
- ✗ New buildings or structures
- ✗ Certain deep-rooted trees or plants



Construction timescales

Works are anticipated to start in 2029 with operations due to start in 2032.

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.

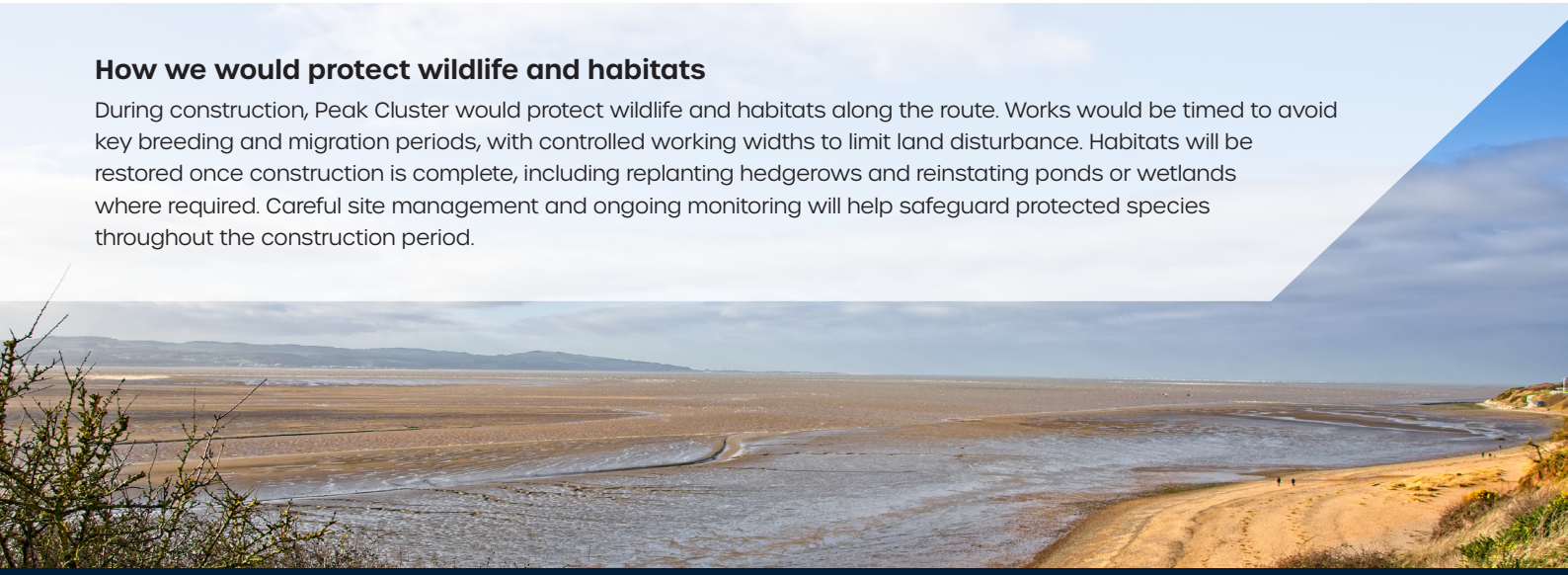
Work would continue into the winter months in areas where trenchless techniques are needed to build the pipeline, and where we'll build above ground installations or block valve stations.

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.

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

How we would protect wildlife and habitats

During construction, Peak Cluster would protect wildlife and habitats along the route. Works would be timed to avoid key breeding and migration periods, with controlled working widths to limit land disturbance. Habitats will be restored once construction is complete, including replanting hedgerows and reinstating ponds or wetlands where required. Careful site management and ongoing monitoring will help safeguard protected species throughout the construction period.



FIND OUT MORE

You can find more information about how we propose to build the pipeline in section 3.2 of the Scoping Report, which you can read in our document library: **www.peakcluster-consultation.co.uk**