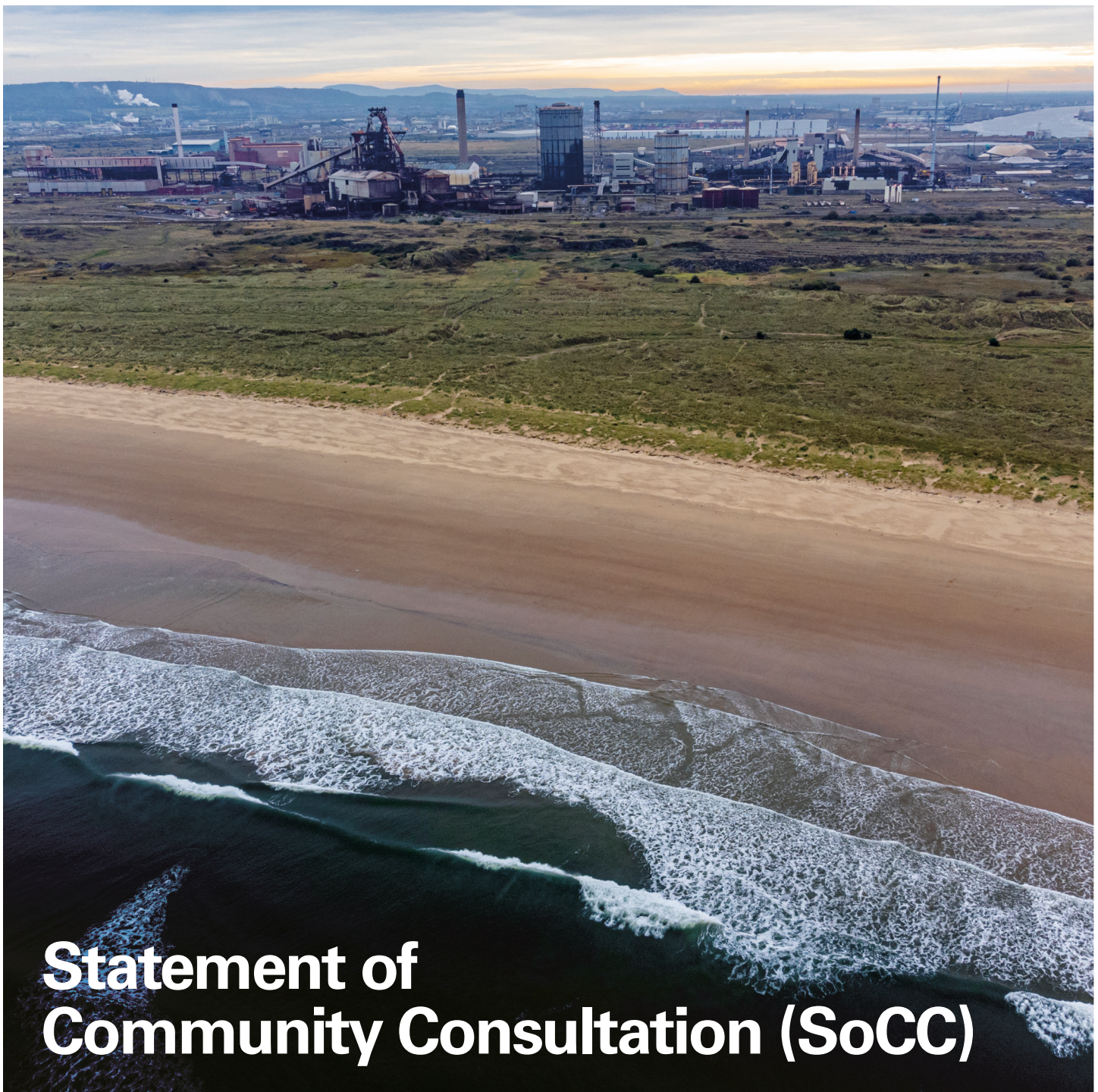




**H2Teesside** hydrogen project

September 2023



**Statement of  
Community Consultation (SoCC)**

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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

### Overview

- 1.1 H2 Teesside Limited (the 'Applicant'), is proposing to apply to the Secretary of State ('SoS') for the Department for Energy Security & Net Zero ('DESNZ') for development consent under Section 37 'Applications for orders granting development consent' of the Planning Act 2008 (the 'PA 2008') for construction, operation and maintenance of the H2Teesside hydrogen project on land within the boroughs of Redcar and Cleveland and Stockton-on-Tees on Teesside and the borough of Hartlepool in County Durham.
- 1.2 H2 Teesside Limited is owned by bp Plc ('bp'). bp will be the lead developer and operator of the H2Teesside Project.
- 1.3 H2 Teesside Limited's application will be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate ('PINS') who administer the application process on behalf of the SoS.
- 1.4 H2Teesside needs development consent as it is a 'Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project' by virtue of Section 14(g) and Sections 35 and 35ZA on the PA 2008.
- 1.5 Prior to submitting an application for development consent, applicants are required to carry out pre-application consultation in accordance with Sections 42, 47 and 48 of the PA 2008.
- 1.6 Section 47(1) of the PA 2008 states that an applicant for development consent must prepare a statement setting out how they propose to consult, about the proposed application, people living within the vicinity of the land to which it relates. This Statement of Community Consultation ('SoCC') sets out how the Applicant will consult the local community about H2Teesside pursuant to Section 47(1).
- 1.7 In accordance with Section 47(2), the Applicant has consulted the relevant local authorities – Redcar and Cleveland, Stockton-on-Tees and Hartlepool borough councils – and also the Tees Valley Combined Authority and South Tees Development Corporation on the SoCC.
- 1.8 Information on the development consent process can be found on the PINS website at:  
<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/application-process/the-process/>

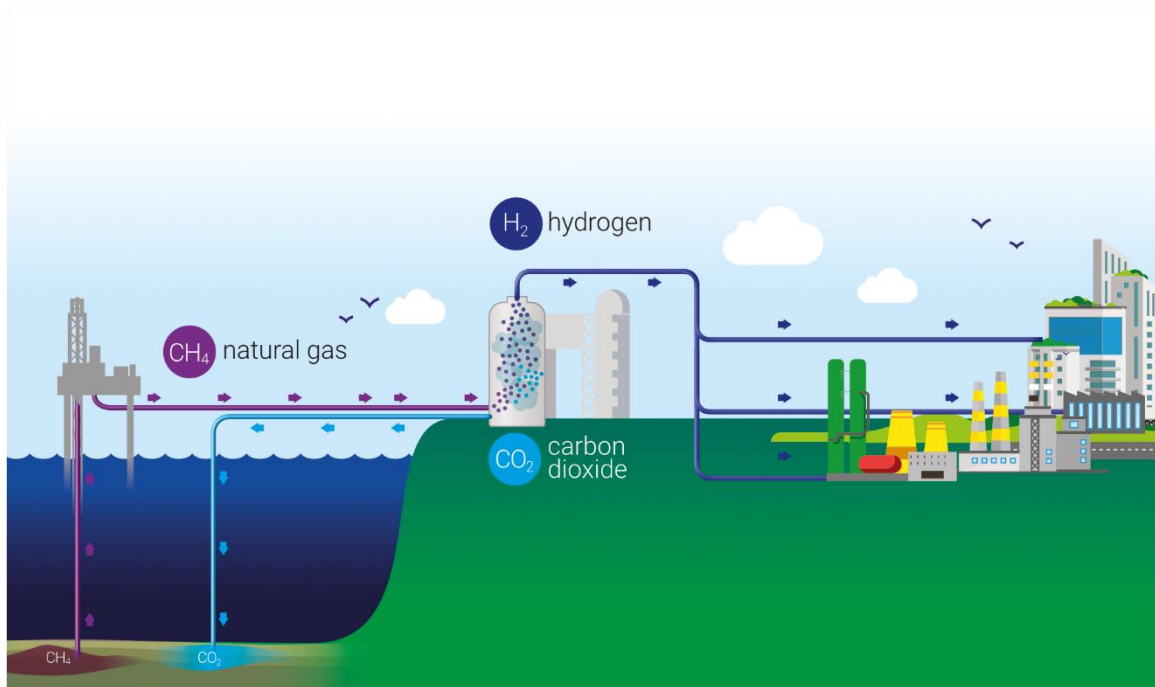
### H2Teesside

- 1.9 H2Teesside (the 'Project') will use natural gas to produce hydrogen (known as 'blue' hydrogen) with the carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) created during the hydrogen production process being captured and compressed for onward transportation and storage, under agreement with the Northern Endurance Partnership (the 'NEP'). NEP will store the

CO<sub>2</sub> securely below ground within the Endurance storage site and other nearby CO<sub>2</sub> stores that NEP holds CO<sub>2</sub> storage licences for. These are located approximately 145 kilometres ('km') offshore from Teesside under the North Sea.

- 1.10 The onshore elements of the NEP infrastructure on Teesside are also known as the Net Zero Teesside ('NZT') Project and have been the subject of an application for development consent. The Secretary of State for DESNZ is expected to make a decision on the NZT development consent application in Quarter 3 2023.
- 1.11 H2Teesside and NEP form part of the East Coast Cluster ('ECC'). The ECC has been selected as one of the first two carbon capture, usage and storage ('CCUS') clusters to be taken forward by the UK Government. The ECC has the potential to remove almost 50% of the UK's total industrial clusters carbon dioxide emissions, protect thousands of jobs and establish the region as a globally competitive climate friendly hub for industry and innovation. The ECC will include a diverse mix of low-carbon projects, including industrial carbon capture, low-carbon hydrogen production, negative emissions power, and power with carbon capture.
- 1.12 The low-carbon hydrogen produced by the Project will be supplied via a new hydrogen pipeline network to existing businesses on Teesside. By replacing the use of natural gas the Project will help existing heavy industry on Teesside reduce its carbon dioxide emissions, consistent with the Government's objective to decarbonise the UK economy and achieve its legally binding target of net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.
- 1.13 The Project will be one of the UK's largest blue hydrogen production facilities with a capacity of up to 1.2 gigawatts ('GW') thermal, representing more than 10% of the Government's hydrogen production target of 10 gigawatts by 2030. This equates to the production of approximately 160,000 tonnes of low carbon hydrogen per annum, with up to two million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> being captured and stored each year.
- 1.14 bp is advancing a separate 'green' hydrogen project, known as HyGreen on Teesside. HyGreen will have an initial production capacity of circa 80 megawatts ('MW') electrical with the potential to expand up to 500 MW of hydrogen production. HyGreen will split water in an electrolyser to produce hydrogen and oxygen using renewable electricity. Some sections of the hydrogen distribution pipelines for HyGreen will be located in the same pipeline corridors as those for H2Teesside and the NEP onshore infrastructure. It is currently envisaged that all the elements of HyGreen will be consented separately under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 and will be subject to separate pre-application consultation.

1.15 The infographic below provides an overview of the 'blue' hydrogen processes.



1.16 H2Teesside comprises the following main elements:

- A hydrogen production plant of up to 1.2 GW thermal to be developed in two phases.
- A natural gas supply connection for the supply of gas to the hydrogen production plant.
- An air separation unit or oxygen and nitrogen supply pipelines to supply these industrial gases for the hydrogen production process.
- An electricity grid connection to provide power to the Project.
- Water supply and treatment and wastewater infrastructure.
- Hydrogen Storage
- $\text{CO}_2$  capture and compression facilities and a connection to the NEP infrastructure for the transport and storage of the  $\text{CO}_2$ .
- Hydrogen distribution pipelines to supply the low carbon hydrogen across Teesside.
- Other ancillary development, including hydrogen storage and laydown facilities.

- 1.17 The Project involves land within the boroughs of Redcar and Cleveland south of the River Tees and Stockton-on-Tees north of the Tees on Teesside and within the borough of Hartlepool in County Durham, also north of the Tees.
- 1.18 The hydrogen production plant and its associated and ancillary development (e.g. natural gas supply connection, air separation unit/oxygen and nitrogen supply pipelines, electricity grid connection, water infrastructure, hydrogen storage and CO<sub>2</sub> capture and compression facilities and connection) will be located within the administrative area of RCBC. The hydrogen distribution pipelines corridors will extend either side of the River Tees to several potential industrial off-takers.
- 1.19 Further information on the Project can be found at the Project Website: [www.h2teesside.co.uk](http://www.h2teesside.co.uk)

### **Environmental Information**

- 1.20 H2Teesside is an Environmental Impact Assessment ('EIA') development for the purposes of 'The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017'. This means that an EIA of the Project will be undertaken by the Applicant. This will assess the likely significant environmental effects arising from the Project. It will also identify any mitigation that is necessary to control or reduce those environmental effects. The findings of the EIA will be documented within an Environmental Statement ('ES') that will form part of the application for development consent.
- 1.21 Environmental information will be made available during the pre-application consultation on the Project. This will take the form of a Preliminary Environmental Information Report ('PEIR'). The PEIR will provide information on the likely significant environmental effects of the Project, so far as known to the Applicant at that stage. The PEIR will be accompanied by a Non-Technical Summary ('NTS'). There will be an opportunity to comment upon the PEIR during the pre-application consultation. The comments received will be considered in the preparation of the ES.

### **Purpose of the SoCC**

- 1.22 This SoCC has been prepared by the Applicant in accordance with Section 47 'Duty to consult local community' of the PA 2008. Section 47(1) places a statutory duty on applicants to "*prepare a statement setting out how the applicant proposes to consult, about the proposed application, people living in the vicinity of the land*". The SoCC sets out how the Applicant will consult (in accordance with Section 47) the local community on H2Teesside prior to the submission of the application for development consent.

- 1.23 The SoCC has been prepared with reference to guidance on pre-application consultation published by the Government (Department for Communities and Local Government – ‘Planning Act 2008: Guidance on the pre-application process’, March 2015), the Planning Inspectorate (‘PINS’) and the relevant local authorities (Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council, Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council and Hartlepool Borough Council) for the purposes of Section 47 of the PA 2008. The Applicant has consulted the relevant local authorities on the SoCC. Although there was no statutory duty to do so, the Applicant also consulted the Tees Valley Combined Authority and the South Tees Development Consultation on the SoCC.
- 1.24 In preparing the SoCC, the Applicant has also taken into account bp’s experience of pre-application consultation on the NZT development consent application.

## **2.0 APPROACH TO PRE-APPLICATION CONSULTATION**

### **Consultation Objectives**

2.1 The Applicant's objectives for the pre-application consultation on H2Teesside are:

- To ensure public understanding of the design and decision-making processes for the Project.
- To create a clear understanding of the Project, given the number of net zero projects in the area, and also provide engaging messaging to help avoid confusion with other projects.
- To reach silent and/or seldom heard audiences by using varied communications methods. The Applicant will seek to identify any groups or specific stakeholders with protected characteristics so that they can be included in the consultation.
- To explain the benefits of the Project, including in terms of job creation, protection of existing industry and decarbonisation.
- To provide stakeholders with the opportunity to submit comments and feedback while the proposals are still at a formative stage, and to provide them with different ways in which to do so.
- To provide a mechanism to review the comments and feedback received and show how these have been taken into account in finalising the proposals and the application for development consent.

### **Consultation Stages & Timescale**

2.2 During the first half of 2023 the Applicant undertook early targeted engagement with potentially affected landowners and key technical consultees and other stakeholders on the Project. This early engagement has informed initial decisions with regard to the extent of the Project Site and the scope of the ongoing EIA work.

2.3 Taking account of the level and type of public engagement on recent projects on Teesside, notably NZT, the decision has been taken for the pre-application public consultation for the Project will take place as one main stage of statutory consultation in accordance with the relevant requirements of the PA 2008, notably Sections 42, 47 and 48. The statutory consultation will run for a period of six weeks.

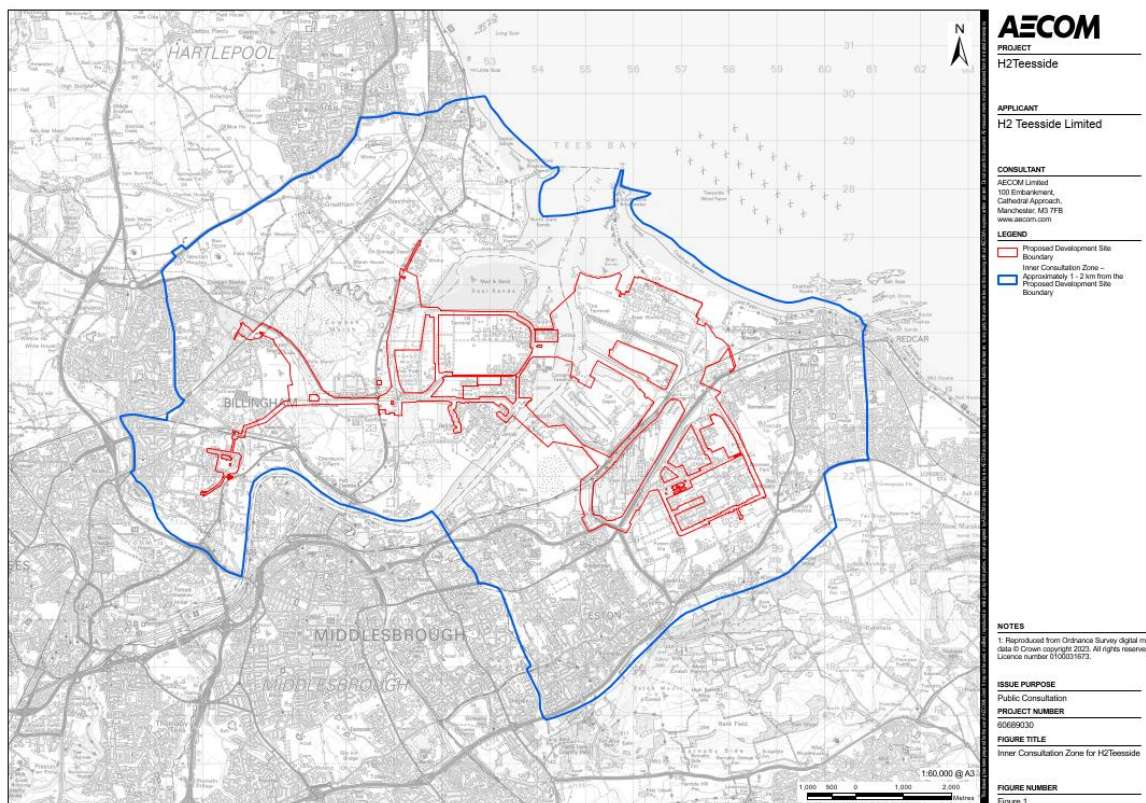
### **Consultation Area**

2.4 A 'Consultation Area' has been defined for the purposes of the Applicant's pre-application public consultation. The Consultation Area is divided into two zones; an Inner Consultation Zone ('ICZ') and an Outer Consultation Zone ('OCZ').



2.5 The ICZ is defined by the outer red line on **Figure 2.1**. The Project Site is indicated by the inner red line. The ICZ represents the area within which the Applicant considers there is the greatest potential for local communities to be most affected by/interested in the Project. The ICZ extends approximately 1 kilometre ('km') from the Project Site boundary. The Applicant has sought to ensure that the defined ICZ does not cut across communities and where appropriate, main roads and natural features have been used to define the edge of the ICZ. The ICZ includes over 37,000 residential and businesses and includes Redcar, Warrenby, Dormanstown, Lazenby, Grangetown, Eston, Normanby, South Bank, Billingham and Greatham.

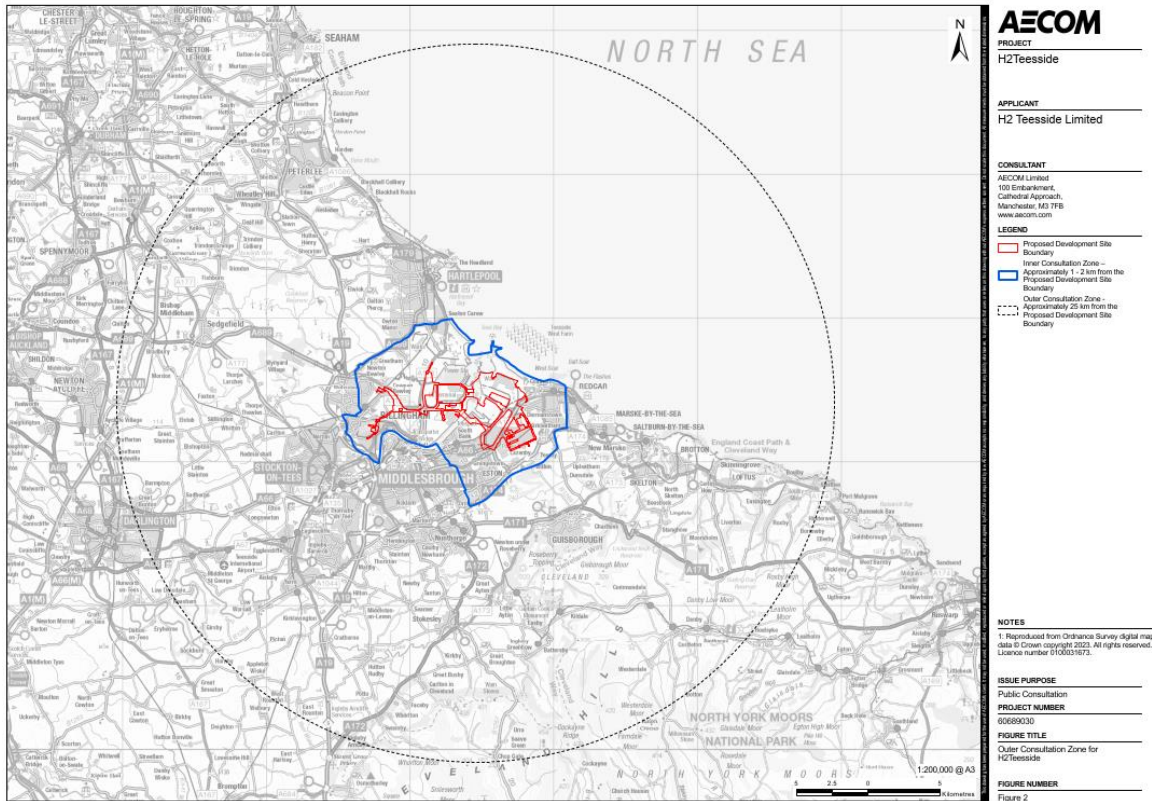
**Figure 2.1 – Project Site and Inner Consultation Zone**



2.6 The OCZ, has been defined with reference to the early EIA work and extends as a worst case to approximately 20km from the Project Site boundary (as defined for the purposes of the EIA) and contains all the land within the proposed development consent application site boundary for H2Teesside. It is considered to represent the maximum extent within which environmental effects could occur. The largest Study Area for the H2Teesside EIA is currently 15km from the Project Site boundary, for the identification of and assessment of impacts to Statutory Designated Ecological Sites (including for

purposes of Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) and also for the air quality assessment. The OCZ is shown on **Figure 2.2** below.

**Figure 2.2 – Project Site and Outer Consultation Zone**



### What will we consult on?

2.7 The pre-application consultation will provide information on the following:

- What H2Teesside is and what it will do.
- The practical uses of hydrogen and its benefits.
- The role of carbon capture, usage and storage ('CCUS') in enabling H2Teesside.
- Decisions made on the design and layout of the Project and the options under consideration.
- The findings of the environmental assessment work undertaken at the time of the consultation, presented in the form of the PEIR.
- The proposals for avoiding, minimising and/or mitigating any likely environmental effects of the Project, to the extent defined and known at that stage.

- An update on the timeline for the Project and the key milestones, including the anticipated submission date for the development consent application.
- How comments and feedback can be provided and the deadline for the receipt of these.

## **3.0 CONSULTATION METHODS**

3.1 The Applicant will employ a wide range of consultation methods to ensure that the local community and other key local stakeholder organisations and local political representatives are provided with the opportunity to engage with the Project and provide comments and feedback. The key consultation methods to be employed are outlined below.

### **Press/media releases**

3.2 Press/media releases will be used to publicise the Project. A press release will be issued to the local and regional press at the start of the statutory consultation. Press releases will also provide information on how the local community can find out about the proposals and the ways in which people can provide comments and feedback.

3.3 The Applicant may also use other forms of media, such as social media, to further publicise the consultation, as considered appropriate.

### **Consultation leaflet and brochure**

3.4 A consultation leaflet will be sent to all residents and businesses within the ICZ prior to the start of the statutory consultation. This will provide information on the Project, the ways in which information is being provided and presented, how further information and consultation materials can be requested, and how comments and feedback can be made as well as the deadline for the submission of these.

3.5 In addition to local residents and businesses, the leaflet will be sent to local political representatives, including local MPs, district councillors and parish and town councils.

3.6 A consultation brochure will also be made available during the statutory consultation within the virtual consultation room, at the public consultation events and also on the Project Website.

### **Newspaper notices/posters**

3.7 The statutory consultation will be advertised by placing a notice in local newspapers circulating across the Consultation Area for two consecutive weeks. The local newspapers that will be used are the Northern Echo, Teesside Gazette and Darlington and Stockton Times. Posters will also be circulated to identified community groups and stakeholders across the Consultation Area, along with a request for them to be shared via their channels and displayed in public places. In accordance with Section 48 of the PA 2008, the notice will also be published in the Telegraph, London Gazette, Lloyds List and Fishing News for one week.

### **Site notices**

- 3.8 The Applicant will erect site notices at appropriate intervals around the Project Site boundaries, including at intervals along the route corridors for the various connections. The site notices will notify the local community of the consultation and provide information on how to participate.

### **Webinars/video conferences**

- 3.9 The Applicant will offer webinars or video conferences to the local community, community groups and representatives, and local political representatives, in order to provide another means by which people can learn about the Project, ask questions and provide comments and feedback.

### **Virtual consultation room**

- 3.10 The Applicant will run an online virtual consultation room that simulates the typical approach used in public consultation events. As part of the virtual consultation room, information boards/banners will be displayed online providing information on the Project. Other consultation materials will also be made available, including the PEIR, its NTS and a Frequently Asked Questions ('FAQs') Document.
- 3.11 A Feedback Form will be made available via the virtual consultation room so that people can provide comments and feedback when accessing it.

### **Public consultation events**

- 3.12 The Applicant will hold six physical public consultation events within the Consultation Area during September and October 2023. These will be held at suitable public venues at a variety of times, including during the day, evening and at least one event on a Saturday, to provide a range of opportunities for people to attend.

### **Inspection locations**

- 3.13 Copies of the consultation materials, including the PEIR, its NTS, consultation leaflet and brochure and FAQs Document, will be accessible at locations within the Consultation Area (e.g. local authority offices and libraries) for inspection by the public. Details will be available on the newspaper and site notices and on the Project Website.

### **Project Website**

- 3.14 A Project Website has been established and will be used to host all the consultation materials and to provide information on how people can provide comments and feedback and request a copy. People will also be able to complete the Feedback Form on the Website. The Website address is: [www.h2teesside.co.uk](http://www.h2teesside.co.uk)

### **Freephone number**

3.15 The Applicant will operate a Freephone number so people, including those without internet access, can contact the Project Team to leave questions about the Project, provide comments and feedback and also request hard copy consultation materials or a USB device containing the consultation materials. The Freephone service will operate 24 hours a day.

### **Feedback form**

3.16 A Feedback Form will be made available during the consultation for people to use to submit comments and feedback. The Feedback Form will be available to complete via the virtual consultation room and also on the Project Website. Feedback Forms will also be available at the public consultation events. In addition, people will be able to request hard copies of the Feedback Form by email, post or telephone.

### **Freepost**

3.17 The Applicant will provide a Freepost address (Freepost H2TEESSIDE) to allow people to submit comments and completed Feedback Forms by post.

## **4.0 RECORDING AND TAKING ACCOUNT OF CONSULTATION**

### **Recording and analysis**

- 4.1 All comments and feedback received to the statutory consultation (including completed Feedback Forms) will be recorded and entered into a response tracker. The comments and feedback received will then be carefully reviewed, analysed and grouped under specific topic or theme headings. Under each topic/theme heading the issues/matters requiring consideration will then be identified.
- 4.2 The Applicant will consider the issues/matters raised during the pre-application consultation on the Project. In having regard to the issues/matters raised the Applicant will also identify where these have resulted in any changes to the Project.

### **Reporting**

- 4.3 The pre-application consultation undertaken on the Project, including the comments/feedback received to the statutory consultation and how the Applicant have had regard to them, will be documented within a Consultation Report, which will form part of the application for development consent.
- 4.4 Comments/feedback received to the consultation may be made public, however, no personal information will be published unless necessary. The Applicant will take reasonable care to comply with the requirements of the General Data Protection Regulation and the PINS Privacy Policy. A copy of the H2Teesside Privacy Notice can be viewed on the Project Website: <http://h2teesside.co.uk/privacy>

## 5.0 CONTACT DETAILS

5.1 You can find out more about H2Teesside by viewing the Project Website: [www.h2teesside.co.uk](http://www.h2teesside.co.uk) or contacting the Project Team as follows:

- By email: [info@h2teesside.net](mailto:info@h2teesside.net)
- By post: Freepost H2TEESSIDE
- By Freephone: 0800 080 3028