CSNP Consultation Survey: Hydrogen Network Planning

This consultation survey will be used to gather the views from stakeholders regarding the hydrogen network planning elements of CSNP methodology. This feedback will be considered and used to develop the final methodology released in September 2025.

Please complete this consultation survey by 1 August at 5pm. Following this date the consultation will be closed and you will no longer be able to submit a response through this form.

Do you agree that the hydrogen CSNP should follow an approach consistent with the gas and electricity transmission network planning process where possible? (Page 194)

Strongly agree

Agree

Neutral

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Do you agree that the modelling of initial hydrogen networks growing out of industrial clusters should be included within the CSNP? (Page 194)

Strongly agree

Agree

Neutral

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Do you agree that the modelling of this broader industrial view should be included within the CSNP? (Page 195)

Strongly agree

Agree

Neutral

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Do you agree with our three-tiered approach for hydrogen network? (Page 195)

Strongly agree

Agree

Neutral

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Do you agree with the need to limit the scope of hydrogen network planning within the CSNP primarily to projects supported under the hydrogen transport and storage business models? (Page 196)

Strongly agree

Agree

Neutral

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Do you agree with our approach to engage further with industry on the detail of the hydrogen network planning methodology in winter 2025/2026 subsequent to further policy detail being set out? (Page 196)

Strongly agree

Agree

Neutral

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Do you agree with our treatment of hydrogen storage within the CSNP? (Page 198)

Strongly agree

Agree

Neutral

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Do you have any other comments or feedback on the proposed approach to hydrogen network planning?

Regardless of the type of treatment for hydrogen storage (above ground or geological storage) it is important that potential impacts (positive or negative) on the historic environment are considered early in the process. Doing so can help to identify potential solutions to accommodate development whilst avoiding or minimising impacts on the historic environment.

Do you agree with our proposal to use the outputs from the SSEP and the Future Energy Scenarios to model a potential national strategic hydrogen network? (Page 200)

Strongly agree

Agree

Neutral

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Are there any other data sources or pathways that we should consider? (Page 200)

We advise that Historic Environment Records (HERs) are identified as a key data source. HERs can provide information on a wide variety of buildings and sites, from finds of prehistoric flint tools to medieval castles and Second World War pillboxes. HERs are a primary source of information for planning, development-control work, and land management, and provide a robust piece of baseline evidence. You can find out more about HER's here Historic Environment Records (HERs) | Historic England. Having a sound evidence base for the historic environment can help avoid impacts and unintended consequences which could slow down the process if not frontloaded.

In addition, information on the protection afforded to the 35 World Heritage Sites (WHS) in the UK can be found at https://historicengland.org.uk/advice/planning/world-heritage/world-heritage-convention/ .

Do you agree that boundary zones for hydrogen network analysis should be initially based on SSEP boundaries? (Page 203)

Strongly agree

Agree

Neutral

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Do you have any other comments or feedback on our approach to establishing hydrogen network needs? (Page 203)

No comment

Do you think there should be any restrictions on who should be able to propose options to meet hydrogen network needs? (Page 205)

Yes

No

Maybe

Don't know

Should NESO undertake pre-filtering of proposed hydrogen network options? (Page 205)

Yes

No

Maybe

Don't know

Do you agree with our approach outlined above to establish suitable technical requirements? (Page 205)

Strongly agree

Agree

Neutral

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Should we always consider new build asset options as an alternative to proposed repurposed assets? (Page 205)

Yes

No

Maybe

Don't know

Do you have any other comments or feedback on the approach to hydrogen network options development? (Page 205)

No comment

Do you agree with our proposed decision-making framework? (Page 208)

Strongly agree

Agree

Neutral

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Given the lack of a market framework within which to quantify the commercial impact of a network that is too small, are there other economic factors or costs that you consider we should be including in the economic assessment? (Page 209)

Yes

No

Don't know

If yes, what are these?

Do you have any other comments or feedback on our approach to hydrogen network options assessment?

Do you agree with taking a consistent approach to environmental and community assessment to that followed for gas network planning? (Page 210)

Strongly Agree

Agree

Neutral

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Do you have any other comments or feedback on our approach to environmental and community assessment? (Page 210)

Historic England is concerned that NESO does not propose to extend the SEA of the CSNP to the hydrogen network section. SEA is crucial because it integrates environmental considerations into the development of plans, programs, and strategies, promoting sustainable development and better environmental protection and outcomes. By systematically assessing potential environmental effects early on, SEA helps avoid costly environmental damage, streamlines decision-making, and enhances public engagement. Therefore, using SEA for only certain parts of the CSNP's activities, and including only certain environmental triggers e.g. emissions, may result in poor development outcomes, risks conflicts with other plans, policies, and legislation, and increases delays further along the process.

Whilst we welcome the seemingly broader remit for environmental impacts than just emissions as proposed for gas networks we seek assurance that impacts on the historic environment are included within environmental assessments. Undertaking a SEA for hydrogen networks would help to achieve this.

Do you have a view on how we should engage stakeholders when further developing our methodology and approach to hydrogen network planning? (Page 212)

As noted in the CSNP, hydrogen is a nascent sector and so many stakeholders will be unfamiliar with the technical aspects of hydrogen network planning. It will be beneficial to endure engagement is appropriate to the audience and level of knowledge/experience. A variety of engagement methods from written, visual, webinars

and bespoke meetings would helpful. Allied to this is allowing appropriate timescales for stakeholder responses given the complex nature of consultations.