



UK Government

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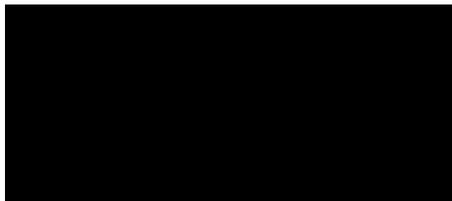
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DIRECTION BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR ENERGY SECURITY AND NET ZERO (“THE SECRETARY OF STATE”) UNDER SECTION 35 OF THE PLANNING ACT 2008 RELATING TO THE H2EAST PIPELINE: HUMBER TO NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

1. By letter to the Secretary of State received on 5 February 2026 (“the Direction request”), Cadent Gas Limited (“the Applicant”) formally requested that the Secretary of State exercise the power under section 35(1) of the Planning Act 2008 to direct that the H2East Pipeline (Humber to Nottinghamshire) Project which comprises the elements set out in the Direction request and in paragraph 2 below, be treated as development for which development consent under the Planning Act 2008 is required.
2. The following elements of the H2East Pipeline (Humber to Nottinghamshire Project) constitute the “Proposed Project” for the purpose of this Direction—
 - circa 150km of hydrogen pipeline connecting hydrogen production and industrial users comprising the following:
 - a hydrogen pipeline from North Killingholme to Immingham;
 - a hydrogen pipeline from Immingham to Scunthorpe;
 - a hydrogen pipeline from Scunthorpe to High Marnham;
 - a hydrogen pipeline from High Marnham to Kirton and Newark; and
3. The Secretary of State is satisfied that—
 - the Proposed Project is in the field of energy and will be wholly within England, waters adjacent to England up to the seaward limits of the territorial sea or the Renewable Energy Zone (in relation to which the Scottish Ministers do not have functions);
 - the Proposed Project is of national significance;
 - the Proposed Project may not fall within the existing definition of a “nationally significant infrastructure project” at the time of determination and therefore it is appropriate to consider use of the power in section 35(1) of the Planning Act 2008; and
 - the Direction request constitutes a “qualifying request” in accordance with section 35ZA(11) of the Planning Act 2008.

4. Having considered the details of the Direction request, the Secretary of State concludes that the Proposed Project is nationally significant, for the reasons set out in the Annex below.
5. The Secretary of State considers that if the details of the Proposed Project materially change, before the Applicant submits any application to the Planning Inspectorate, the Applicant may wish to seek confirmation from the Secretary of State that the development that is the subject of the proposed application is the same as that for which the Direction is hereby given.
6. The Secretary of State notes the Applicant included associated development as part of the Proposed Project; however, the Secretary of State considers the question of whether works are associated development is one that should be decided on its own merits once a development consent application has been submitted and the parameters of every aspect of the project are known.
7. The Secretary of State has taken the decision having regard to the requirements of sections 35A(2) and (5) of the Planning Act 2008 and issues this Direction accordingly under sections 35(1) and 35ZA of the Planning Act 2008.
8. THE SECRETARY OF STATE DIRECTS that the Proposed Project is to be treated as development for which development consent is required.
9. This Direction is given without prejudice to the Secretary of State's consideration of any application for development consent which is made in relation to the Proposed Project.

Signed by



David Wagstaff OBE
Deputy Director, Energy Infrastructure Planning Delivery
For and on behalf of the Secretary of State for the Department for Energy Security and
Net Zero

03 March 2026

ANNEX

REASONS FOR THE DECISION TO ISSUE THE DIRECTION

The Secretary of State is of the opinion that the Direction should be issued because—

- The Proposed Project is of national significance, taking into account that it is a large-scale hydrogen pipeline project of approximately 150km in length that would convey low carbon hydrogen and connect hydrogen production facilities with industrial users across several local authority areas.
- The Proposed Project would play an important role in enabling an energy system that meets the UK's commitment to reduce carbon emissions and the Government's objectives to create a secure, reliable and affordable energy supply for consumers.
- Progressing the Proposed Project through the Planning Act 2008 development consent process would provide a fixed timescale for determining any application for development consent. It would also allow the Applicant to rely on a single assessment process and single decision-maker, offering the certainty of one unified consenting process.