



OUR APPROACH TO CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

We recognise that local communities have valuable knowledge, perspectives and insights that they wish to share with those developing the project. In addition to carrying out regular periods of consultation, we are committed to continually engaging with the communities surrounding the Peak Cluster project as it develops. Collaborating in this way helps ensure that our proposed project design balances a wide range of needs and considerations.

The importance of engagement

We understand that proposals for new infrastructure can naturally raise questions and concerns. That is why we are committed to engaging in ongoing, meaningful conversations with people who live, work or spend their free time near the proposed Peak Cluster infrastructure. By working with communities and organisations throughout the planning process, we can develop an approach to project design that minimises disruption and impact. It also ensures work would be delivered safely and efficiently, should the project be granted development consent.

We are currently in a listening and information gathering stage of the development process. To develop our plans for Peak Cluster's proposed pipeline route and above ground infrastructure, we used publicly available data to learn more about the topography of the land, and consider the location of things like residential areas, highway networks, ecological sites, scheduled monuments and listed buildings.

However, we know that data alone can't provide all the information we need to inform and develop our detailed plans. Engaging in ongoing conversations with you throughout this process helps us to understand local context, and discover what is most important to your community.

The role of consultation

Consultation forms an important part of our wider engagement activities and is carried out at set times to support the project's development.

Hosting a public consultation during the early development stage is a recognised, best practice approach for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) projects seeking a Development Consent Order (DCO). Our phase 1 consultation followed [government guidance](#) on 'non-statutory' engagement activities, and importantly, enabled us to gather feedback from communities to help shape the project's early design and development.

However, we understand that engaging at this early stage means that we may not have had all the information that people wanted to know about Peak Cluster, for example exact locations and specifications of infrastructure, or impacts of construction.

Our programme of consultation has been designed to inform and engage as many communities, stakeholders and landowners local to the project as possible, throughout the project's development.

Peak Cluster is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP).

We have developed our approach to consultation and engagement in accordance with the [Planning Act 2008](#), relevant [guidance](#) on DCO pre-application consultation published by the Government, and [advice](#) for applicants published by the Planning Inspectorate.

We shared our approach to consultation with Local Authorities for review and input prior to the launch of our phase 1 consultation. You can view and download this document, [here](#).

Following Royal Assent of the [Planning and Infrastructure Act](#) in December 2025, the planning process for NSIPs is changing, and we are expecting to receive new government guidance on the implications of these changes this summer.

Until then, we are following current legislation, government guidance, and best practice in our approach to consultation and engagement.



Phase 1 consultation activities

January – May 2026

For our phase 1 consultation (12th January–28th February 2026), we provided communities and stakeholders multiple ways to learn about the project and share their views. This included:

- Community drop-in events to meet the team
- Webinars with Q&A
- Newsletters posted to over 110,000 addresses
- Digital mailout to stakeholders and interested people

- Online consultation hub with materials and an interactive map
- Contact centre for letters, emails and calls
- Information points with hardcopy materials
- Promotion in local news publications and on social media

We've also undertaken additional engagement with Wirral communities from 31st March to 8th May 2026, to help people understand our proposals for the project in the area.

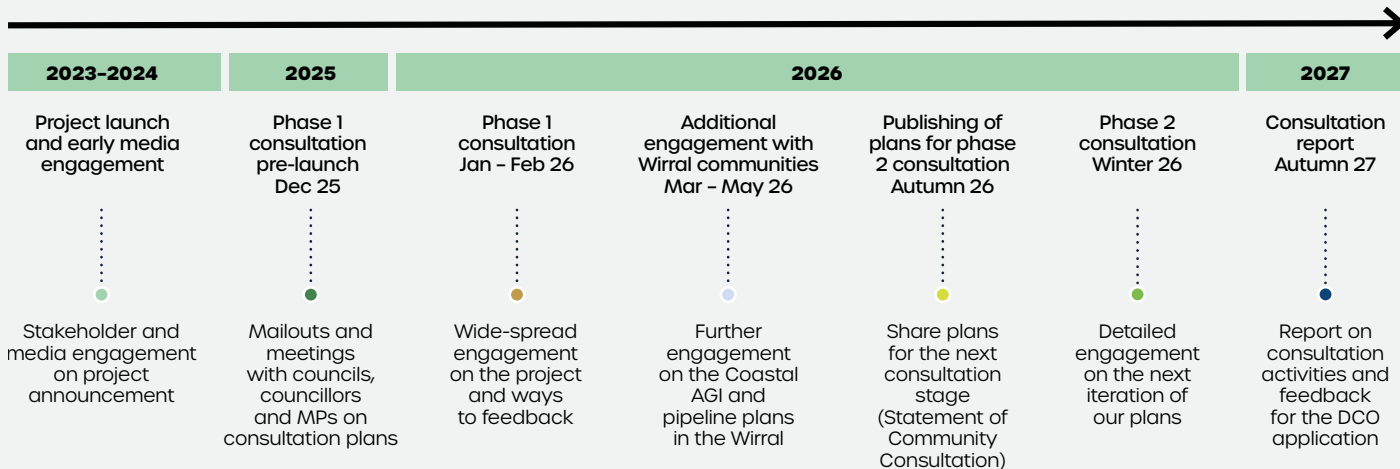
Look ahead to our phase 2 consultation

We expect to hold our phase 2 consultation later this year. During this period, we will share much more detail about our plans, including a refined design and the results of our ongoing technical and environmental assessments.

This phase of consultation is likely to follow current government guidance and best practice for 'statutory' consultations. We will work in collaboration with Local Authorities to develop our consultation approach. We will then share our detailed consultation plan with local communities ahead of the consultation launch.



Engagement we've carried out so far



GET IN TOUCH

If you'd like to talk to a team member about the project, or for us to send you copies of our consultation materials, you can get in touch in the following ways:



Website: www.peakcluster.co.uk



Phone: 0800 0129 167 (freephone)



Email: consultation@peakcluster.co.uk



Write: FREEPOST PEAK CLUSTER