

Date: 26 January 2026
Our ref: 538776, Case 32959
Your ref: EN010166



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Dear [REDACTED]

NSIP Reference Name / Code: EN010166, Connah's Quay Low Carbon Power Project

Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

Written Representation

PART I: Summary of Natural England's advice.

We have issues that are yet to be resolved.

We have commenced discussions with the Applicant and their consultants to seek resolution to these issues, but have no further comment to add beyond the points raised in our Relevant Representations at this stage.

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PART 1 INTRODUCTION

1.1. Purpose and structure of these representations

- 1.1.1. These Written Representations are submitted in pursuance of rule 10(1) of the Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 ('ExPR') in relation to an application under the Planning Act 2008 for a Development Consent Order ('DCO') for the Connah's Quay Low Carbon Power Project ('the Project') submitted by Uniper ('the Applicant') to the Secretary of State.
- 1.1.2. Natural England has already provided a summary of its principal concerns in its Relevant Representations, submitted to the Planning Inspectorate on 23rd October 2025. As no further information has been provided in the intervening period, and discussions with the Developer and their consultants are at an early stage, Natural England has no detailed comment to add beyond the issues raised in our Relevant Representations at this stage.

2. CONSERVATION DESIGNATIONS, FEATURES AND INTERESTS THAT COULD BE AFFECTED BY THE PROPOSED PROJECT

Section 2 of our Relevant Representations sets out our concerns in relation to internationally and nationally designated site impacts. As no further information has been submitted by the applicant since the Relevant Representations were made, the concerns set out in that submission remain valid.

For brevity I have not repeated those concerns here, but have highlighted below the internationally and nationally designated sites that Natural England consider likely to be impacted by the proposed development..

2.1. International conservation designations

- 2.1.1. Dee Estuary Special Protection Area, Special Area of Conservation and Ramsar site;
- 2.1.2. River Dee and Bala Lake Special Area of Conservation;
- 2.1.3. Mersey Estuary Special Protection Area and Ramsar site

2.2. National conservation designations

- 2.2.1. River Dee (England) Site of Special Scientific Interest
- 2.2.2. Dee Estuary Site of Special Scientific Interest
- 2.2.3. Mersey Estuary Site of Special Scientific Interest
- 2.2.4. Thurstaston Common Site of Special Scientific Interest;
- 2.2.5. New Ferry Site of Special Scientific Interest;
- 2.2.6. Inner Marsh Farm Site of Special Scientific Interest

2.3. European and Nationally Protected Species

- 2.3.1. As protected species licensing will be the remit of Natural Resources Wales, Natural England has no comment to make.

3. NATURAL ENGLAND'S CONCERNS AND ADVICE

3.1. The principal issues

3.1.1. Natural England identified the following main issues in its Relevant Representations:

- a. Impacts on internationally designated sites through degradation and loss of habitat, impacts to designated site interest features (birds, otter and fish), and impacts to habitats from aerial deposition;
- b. Impacts on nationally designated sites through degradation and loss of habitat; impacts to designated site interest features (primarily birds) and impacts to habitats from aerial deposition;

As set out in Section 2 of these representations, our Relevant Representations, submitted on 23rd October 2025, describe our concerns relating to internationally and nationally designated sites. As no further information has been submitted by the applicant since the Relevant Representations were made, the concerns set out in that submission remain valid.

We will work with the Applicants and their consultants, to progress a Statement of Common Ground, and seek resolution to the issues raised in our Relevant Representation through the remainder of the Examination.