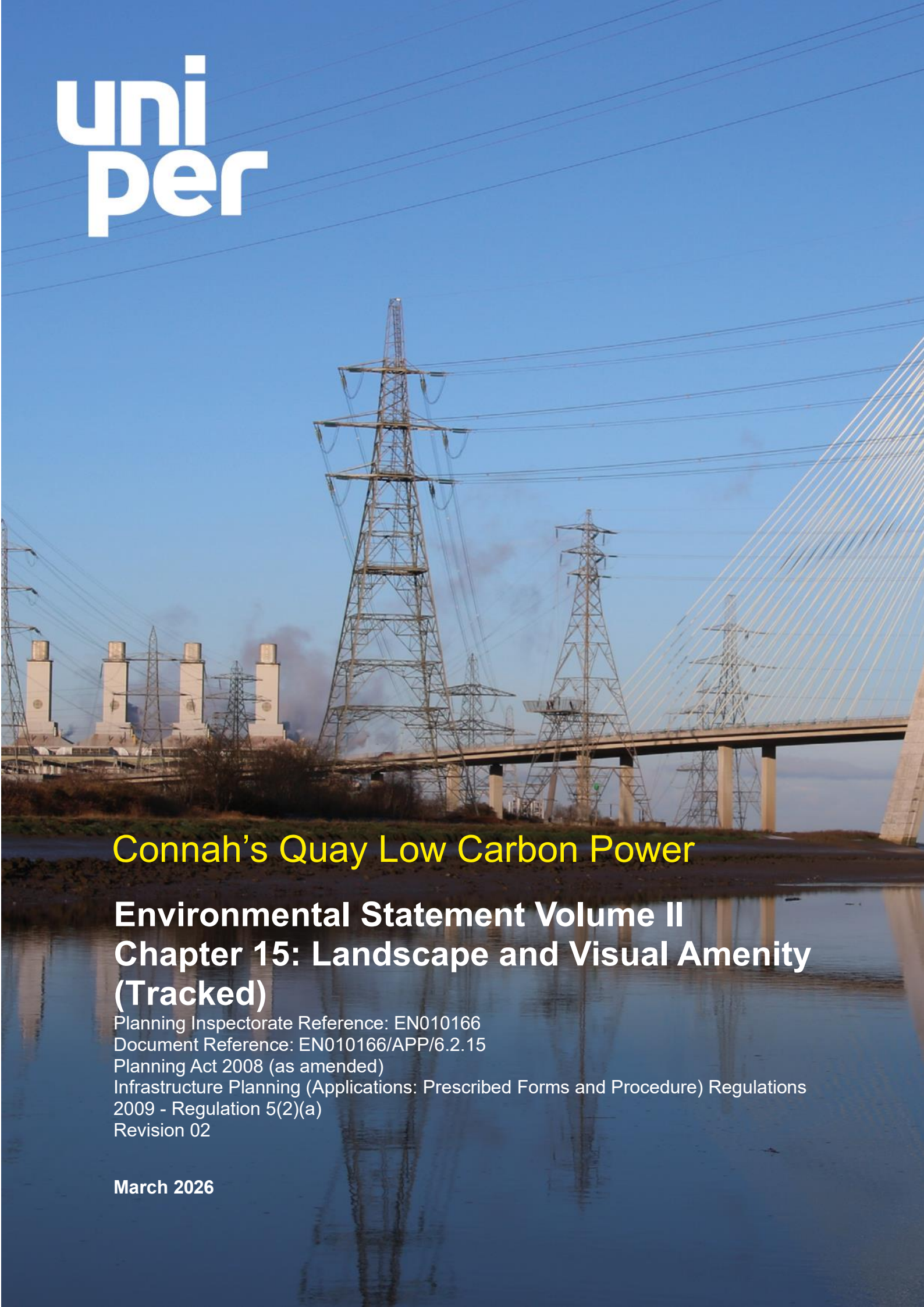

Connah's Quay Low Carbon Power

Environmental Statement Volume II Chapter 15: Landscape and Visual Amenity (Tracked)

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Table of Contents

Tables

15. Landscape and Visual Amenity

15.1 Introduction

Overview

15.1.1 This chapter of the Environmental Statement (ES) presents an assessment of the likely significant environmental effects of the Connah's Quay Combined Cycle Gas Turbine (CCGT) fitted with Carbon Capture Plant (CCP) (hereafter referred to as the Proposed Development) with respect to Landscape and Visual Amenity during the construction, operation (including maintenance), and decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development. A description of the Proposed Development, including details of maximum parameters, is set out in **Chapter 4: The Proposed Development (EN010166/APP/6.2.4).**

15.1.2 Landscape effects can also include seascape effects. Both relate to changes to the landscape/ seascape as a resource, including physical changes to the fabric or individual elements of the landscape/ seascape, its aesthetic or perceptual qualities, and their character. Seascapes refer to marine character in this chapter. Marine character areas have been taken into consideration due to the estuarine setting of the Main Development Area.

15.1.3 Visual effects relate to changes to existing views of identified visual receptors (people) from the loss or addition of features within their view due to the Proposed Development. For example, this may be nearby residents or users of Public Rights of Way (PRoW).

15.1.4 The Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) has been undertaken in accordance with the Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, Third Edition, 2013 (GLVIA3) (Ref 15-1) and with reference to other environmental topics, including ecology and cultural heritage.

15.1.5 This chapter is supported by the following figures in **EN010166/APP/6.3**:

- **Figure 3-3: Areas described in the ES;**
- **Figure 15-1: Study Area;**
- **Figure 15-2: Topography;**
- **Figure 15-3: Landscape Context;**
- **Figure 15-4A: National Landscape Character Areas;**
- **Figure 15-4B: Local Landscape Character Areas;**
- **Figure 15-4B1: LANDMAP;**
- **Figure 15-5: Public Rights of Way;**
- **Figure 15-6: Representative Viewpoint Locations;**
- **Figure 15-7: Zone of Theoretical Visibility - 65 m Main Site Structures plus 7.4 Raised Ground Level (excluding absorber stacks(s), HRSG stacks and CCP absorbers) ;**

- **Figure 15-8: Zone of Theoretical Visibility – 145 m CCP Absorber Column (including Stack) Height plus 7.4 m Raised Ground Level;**
- **Figure 15-9: Canal & River Trust (CRT) Assets;**
- **Figures 15-10 – 15-24: Winter Viewpoint Photography;**
- **Figures 15-10A – 15-24A: Summer Viewpoint Photography;** and
- **Figures 15-25 – 15-30: Viewpoint Wireline Sheets.**

15.1.6 This chapter is supported by the following appendices in (**EN010166/APP/6.4**):

- **Appendix 1-A: Scoping Report;**
- **Appendix 1-B: Scoping Opinion;**
- **Appendix 2-B: Scoping Opinion Responses;**
- **Appendix 5-A: Environmental Screening of Accommodation Works**;
- **Appendix 5-B: Environmental Screening of the Hardstanding Expansion at Connah's Quay North Jetty**;
- **Appendix 7-A: Legislative, Policy and Guidance Framework for Technical Topics**;
- **Appendix 15-A: Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Methodology**;
- **Appendix 15-B: Landscape Character**;
- **Appendix 15-C: Representative Viewpoints**;
- **Appendix 15-D: Landscape Impact Assessment**;
- **Appendix 15-E: Visual Impact Assessment**;
- **Appendix 15-F: Colour Analysis**; and
- **Appendix 15-G: Arboriculture Impact Assessment**.

Legislation, Policy, and Guidance

15.1.7 Legislation, planning policy and guidance relating to Landscape and Visual Amenity and pertinent to the Proposed Development are listed in **Table 15-1**. Further detail regarding these can be found in **Appendix 7-A: Legislative, Policy and Guidance Framework for Technical Topics** (**EN010166/APP/6.4**).

Table 15-1: Legislation, Planning Policy, and Guidance relating to Landscape and Visual Amenity

Type	Legislation, Policy, and Guidance
Legislation	• Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)) Regulations 2017 (Ref 15-2); and • European Landscape Convention 2020 (Ref 15-3).

Type	Legislation, Policy, and Guidance
National Planning Policy	• The Overarching National Policy Statement (NPS) for Energy (EN-1) (Ref 15-4); • The NPS for Natural Gas Electricity Generating Infrastructure (EN-2) (Ref 15-5); • The NPS for Natural Gas Supply Infrastructure and Gas and Oil Pipelines (EN-4) (Ref 15-6); • The NPS for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (EN-5) (Ref 15-7); • Planning Policy Wales (PPW) (Ref 15-8); and • Welsh National Marine Plan 2019 (Ref 15-9).
Local Planning Policy	• Flintshire County Council (FCC) Local Development Plan (LDP) (2015-2030) (Ref 15-10).
National Guidance	• GLVIA3 (Ref 15-1); • Landscape Institute Technical Guidance Note (TGN) 06/2019 Visual Representation of Development Proposals, (Ref 15-11); • Landscape Institute TGN 02/21: Assessing Landscape Value Outside National Designations (Ref 15-12); • Landscape Institute TGN Infrastructure, TGN 04/2020 (Ref 15-13); • Landscape Institute TGN Tranquillity 01/17 (Ref 15-14); and • Landscape Institute TGN 01/2024 Notes and Clarifications on Aspects of the 3rd Edition Guidelines on Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (Ref 15-15)

15.2 Consultation and Scope of Assessment

Consultation

EIA Scoping Opinion

15.2.1 A request for an EIA Scoping Opinion was sought from the Secretary of State (SoS) through the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) in February 2024 as part of the EIA Scoping Process. The EIA Scoping Opinion was adopted on 20 March 2024 (**Appendix 1-B: Scoping Opinion** (**EN010166/APP/6.4**)).

15.2.2 Key issues raised in the EIA Scoping Opinion are summarised and responded to in **Appendix 2-B: Scoping Opinion Responses** (**EN010166/APP/6.4**). All issues are being considered during the EIA process.

15.2.3 **Table 15-2** below outlines how and where the EIA Scoping Opinion comments in relation to the landscape and visual assessment have been addressed within this ES.

Statutory Consultation

15.2.4 Statutory consultation was undertaken in October to November 2024. A Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) was issued in support of that consultation. Responses to this statutory consultation are summarised in the **Consultation Report** (**EN010166/APP/5.1**) and **Table 15-3** below outlines how regard has been had to these comments through the ES.

Targeted Consultation

15.2.1 Following Statutory Consultation, changes were made to the heights of the proposed absorber and Heat Recovery Steam Generator (HRSG) stacks and the Applicant undertook further targeted consultation. This consultation included a Supporting Information Report which detailed the environmental considerations associated with these changes. This Targeted Consultation was held between Thursday 8 May to Friday 6 June 2025. Responses to this targeted consultation are presented in the **Consultation Report (EN010166/APP/5.1)** and **Table 15-4** below outlines how and where these comments have been addressed within this chapter of the ES.

Additional Technical Engagement

15.2.2 **Table 15-5** summarises the non-statutory Landscape and Visual Amenity consultation and engagement undertaken ~~to date~~as at the date of submission of the Application.

Table 15-2: EIA Scoping Opinion Responses

Comment ID	Consultee	Comment	Response
3.8.1	The Inspectorate (PINS)	*'The Scoping Report proposes to scope out an assessment of nighttime lighting effects during the construction phase on the basis that high levels of lighting already exist given the industrial nature of the area, and any additional lighting associated with the Proposed Development will be directional and temporary. The Inspectorate is content that the level of additional lighting generated during construction is unlikely to result in a significant effect and therefore this matter can be scoped out of the assessment'.*	This position on the scope of the construction phase assessment is acknowledged.
3.8.2	PINS	*'The Inspectorate directs the Applicant to comments in ID 2.1.12 which should be addressed in the ES in relation to decommissioning and therefore does not agree to scope out this matter on the information provided'.*	Pursuant to Requirement 17 of the **Draft DCO** (**EN010166/APP/3.1**), within 12 months of the date that the undertaker decides to decommission the authorised development, the undertaker must submit to the relevant planning authority a Decommissioning Environmental Management (DEMP). The DEMP would consider in detail all potential environmental risks and contain guidance on how risks can be removed, mitigated or managed, accounting for potential future changes to baseline conditions. Potential impacts and associated effects arising during the decommissioning phase have been considered in Section 15.6 of this chapter, and are anticipated to be similar to those identified during the construction phase.

Comment ID	Consultee	Comment	Response
3.8.3	PINS	*'The Inspectorate notes that an indicative list of viewpoint locations has been provided in the Scoping Report. The Applicant has undertaken to agree this list with relevant local authorities through further consultation. The Inspectorate welcomes this approach and advises the Applicant to make effort to agree the locations with other relevant consultation bodies, for example the Canal and River Trust and NRW. The Applicant should ensure that topography and ground cover are considered when identifying receptors. The Applicant should consider whether the assessment should include receptors in terms of users of the waterways and public rights of way (PRoW) within the vicinity of the Proposed Development site'.*	**Table 15-2** provides a summary of the consultation undertaken ~~to date~~as at the date of submission of the Application relating to the LVIA. Topography and ground cover have been considered in the identification of receptors through the analysis of Zones of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) and site work. Refer to **Figure 15-8: Zone of Theoretical Visibility - 145 m CCP Absorber Column (including Stack) Height plus 7.4 m Raised Ground Level** (**EN010166/APP/6.3**). Recreational users of the Dee Estuary have been considered within the dynamic visual impact assessment without the use of a viewpoint. For further details and assessment refer to paragraphs 15.6.27 to 15.6.29 of this chapter. Recreational users of the PRoW network have been considered within the visual impact assessment. Viewpoint 11, taken at Kelsterton Cemetery, is also representative from a number of nearby PRoW experiencing short-distance open views of the Proposed Development.
3.8.4	PINS	*'The Applicant's attention is drawn to the scoping consultation response from NRW (see Appendix 2) in relation to potential effects on the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley National Landscape'.*	Viewpoint 15 has been added and illustrates a view from the Moel Famau Jubilee Tower located within the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley (CRDV) National Landscape. For further details and assessment refer to Section 15.6 of this chapter.

Comment ID	Consultee	Comment	Response
3.8.5	PINS	*'The Lighting Strategy should consider impacts in relation to lighting on users of the adjacent railway, waterways and PRoW'.*	The impact of night-time lighting has been reviewed as part of this chapter to determine its effects on landscape character and visual amenity. The likely impacts and effects as a result of the recommendations set out in the **Lighting Strategy** (**EN010166/APP/7.22**) submitted with the Application are discussed in Section 15.6 of this chapter.
N/A	Flintshire County Council	*'The Council acknowledges that the identified 16 Indicative Viewpoints for assessment, which have been subject to change, may be subject to further change during consultations with Local Planning Authorities prior to the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment being undertaken (paragraph 13.4.20). The Council would be happy to provide input on this when necessary'.*	As detailed in Section 15.2 of this chapter, FCC have been consulted and it has been confirmed that they have agreed that the proposed viewpoint locations provide a good representative sample for the assessment.
N/A	Flintshire County Council	'*The Scoping Report provides no reference to the provision of a BS5837:2012 (Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendations) survey. It would be standard practice to include a BS5837:2012 survey as an appendix to the Environmental Statement, which included a tree data table, accurate plotting of trees on site plans and an Arboricultural Implication Assessment. At this stage it appears the implications to trees and hedges are minor*'.	A Tree Survey and Arboricultural Impact Assessment (AIA) has been undertaken as detailed in **Appendix 15-G: Arboriculture Impact Assessment** (**EN010166/APP/6.4**).

Comment ID	Consultee	Comment	Response
N/A	Network Rail	*'When considering the impact of lighting on the local environment, the lighting strategy should also take into consideration any glint or glare that may be caused to the neighbouring railway. Any proposed lighting should not interfere with train drivers vision or signals within the area'.*	A glint a glare assessment has not been undertaken on the basis that the **Lighting Strategy** (**EN010166/APP/7.22**) identifies the requirements to minimise light spill beyond the boundary of the Main Development Area during construction and operation.
N/A	National Grid Electricity Transmission	*'If a landscaping scheme is proposed as part of the proposal, we request that only slow and low growing species of trees and shrubs are planted beneath and adjacent to the existing overhead line to reduce the risk of growth to a height which compromises statutory safety clearances'.*	This is noted and is considered in the **Outline Landscaping and Ecology Management Plan** (**LEMP**) (**EN010166/APP/6.9**).
N/A	Natural Resources Wales (NRW)	*'The National Landscape (AONB) boundary is 8km from the application site at its closest point. We note that the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) study area will be 10km. A viewpoint from Moel Famau on the National Landscape (AONB) ridgeline at just over 10km is likely to be included in the LVIA (reference viewpoint P) although the 10km study area would exclude the wider National Landscape (AONB) ridgeline'.*	As detailed in Sections 15.2 and 15.4 of this chapter the 10 km study area includes a representative view (Viewpoint 15) from Clwydian Range and Dee Valley National Landscape (CRDV).
N/A	Natural Resources Wales (NRW)	*'A Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) is shown for the tallest element at 105m (Figure 13-8) and next tallest element at 56m (Figure 13-7). Both indicate visibility from Moel Famau. Forestry north of Moel Famau has recently been felled, and in any case,*	Viewpoint 15 is located at Moel Famau (grid reference 316166, 362655). **Table 15-7** notes long distance, expansive panoramic views from Moel Famau towards Connah's Quay.

Comment ID	Consultee	Comment	Response
		there would be views from the summit over the tree line'.	
N/A	NRW	*'We welcome the statement in paragraph 13.6.3 that a colour study of existing colours and materials within the surrounding landscape and existing power station will be undertaken to inform the design of the proposed development'.*	Section 15.3 of this chapter identifies that the proposed design, in particular the designs of the absorber column(s) (stack) and the CCGT and HRSG stack(s), should include consideration of appearance to reduce visual impact, accepting the scale of the Proposed Development. A colour study has been prepared (**Appendix 15-F: Colour Analysis** (**EN010166/APP/6.4**)) to guide the selection of colours in the design of the structures. Requirement 3 of the **Draft DCO** (**EN010166/APP/3.1**) provides that no stage of the authorised development may commence until details of the external appearance including colour of all new permanent buildings and structures have been submitted to and approved by the relevant planning authority, and these details must be in general accordance with the **Design Principles Document** (**EN010166/APP/7.8**).
N/A	NRW	*'The LVIA study area should be expanded to include the Moel Famau viewpoint, and this should be used as a 'representative' viewpoint of other high points on the ridge line of hill forts, including Moel Arthur at 456m and Moel y Parc at 398m which are all on the Offa's Dyke long distance footpath'.*	The study area has been re-defined to a suitable size and includes this relevant viewpoint information. Further information is presented in this chapter.

Comment ID	Consultee	Comment	Response
N/A	NRW	*'Potential impacts on National Landscape (AONB) Special Qualities should be assessed in the LVIA and informed by detailed supporting evidence and assessment'.*	The assessment presented in Section 15.6 of this chapter considers the potential impacts on the special qualities of the CRDV National Landscape.
N/A	NRW	*'The National Landscape (AONB) boundary should be shown on viewpoint and other relevant mapping within the LVIA'.*	**Figure 15-3: Landscape Context** and **Figure 15-6: Representative Viewpoint Locations** (**EN010166/APP/6.3**) illustrates the National Landscape boundary.
N/A	Wirral Council	No response received yet.	A further request for agreement on viewpoints was sent to Wirral Council, however a response was not provided.

Table 15-3: Statutory Consultee Responses

Consultee	Comment	Response
FCC	'*The DCO application would be accompanied by an Environmental Impact Assessment, and the PEIR indicates the topics to be assessed which are considered to be comprehensive'.*	FCC's position is acknowledged.
FCC	'*The submitted environmental statement will need to have regard for Planning Policy Wales (PPW) (edition 12, 2024) and any relevant legislation and guidance such as relevant Technical Advice Notes that is in force/adopted in Wales. Also, the application should have regard to the respective and relevant policies within the Flintshire Local Development Plan (LDP) adopted by the Council on 24 January 2023'.*	This assessment has been carried out with regard to the policies and guidance relevant to the Proposed Development.
NRW	'*Our advice relates to the landscape character and visual amenity of the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley National Landscape (CRDV NL), which is the name for the legally designated Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). At its closest point, the main application site[1] is located approximately 10km from the National Landscape boundary.* *We welcome that our following scoping advice has been reflected in the PEIR:* *The Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) study area has been extended to include the summit of Moel Famau on the ridgeline of the Clwydian Range within the CRDV NL.*	This comment is acknowledged.

[1] *The site of the proposed CCGT with CCP.*

Consultee	Comment	Response
	A viewpoint from Moel Famau is used as an assessment viewpoint within the LVIA (Viewpoint 15). *Potential impacts on Special Qualities of the National Landscape are assessed.* *The National Landscape boundary is shown on mapping (e.g., LVIA Figure 15-6).* *A Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) analysis has been prepared for the tallest element (the absorber stack(s)) at 128m above ordnance datum (AOD) (Figure 15-8) and for the 'main site structures' modelled at 65m above ground level (AGL) (Figure 15-7). Based on the ZTVs, we note potential visibility of the development within the CRDV NL would primarily be confined to the ridgeline around and including Moel Famau. This area of potential visibility is captured within the extended LVIA Study Area.* *Far-reaching 360-degree views are available at Moel Famau. In the context of these views, the proposed development would introduce a small element, viewed at a distance of approximately 14.5km. Although visible, and noticeable, the proposal would consolidate industrial development within a part of the view that is already affected by similar development (e.g., the existing Connah's Quay Power Station). As reported in the PEIR (Chapter 4, paragraph 4.3.7), except for the absorber stack(s) (≤ 128m AOD), the proposal would not introduce new buildings or structures that are*	

Consultee	Comment	Response
	significantly taller than those within the existing Power Station, which has 85m tall boiler stacks. *Based on the above, we agree with the conclusion of the LVIA (Chapter 15), that the effect on views and the visual amenity of people at Moel Famau would not be significant. We also agree that there would be no significant effects on the special qualities of the National Landscape'.*	
NRW	'*Notwithstanding the above, we recommend that measures are included as part of the ongoing design process to ensure the development is integrated sympathetically within the context of both local and distant views, including those from the CRDV NL. We therefore welcome the statement in paragraph 15.5.2 that further details regarding embedded mitigation will be submitted with the DCO application, and note the following measures relevant to reducing the impact on distant views:* *Material selection to assist with breaking up the massing of the buildings and structures;* *The design of the absorber column(s) (stack) and the Combined Cycle Gas Turbine and Heat Recovery Steam Generator stack(s) will include consideration of appearance to reduce visual impact, to include a colour study of the existing colour/materials of the surrounding natural landscape palette and the existing power station building.*	Please refer to Section 15.5 of this chapter for further details on embedded mitigation measures.

Consultee	Comment	Response
NRW	*For the benefit of the Examining Authority, members of the public, and other interested parties, we recommend that the viewpoint photograph from Moel Famau is re-taken when visibility is improved. The current photograph (Winter Viewpoints Photography, Figure 15.24: Representative Photo-view) is adversely affected by low cloud/mist which restricts visibility of the site. In clear conditions the site and development will be visible, and this should be reflected in the photography which accompanies the LVIA'.*	Updated photography, during clear weather conditions, for Viewpoint 15 is included in **Figure 15A-24A: Summer Viewpoint Photography** (**EN010166/APP/6.3**).
NRW	*We note the findings as outlined in Appendix D 'Landscape and Visual Amenity', but advise that the following points should be addressed in the final LVIA submitted for the examination stage:* *a) As previously advised, the viewpoint photograph from Moel Famau should be retaken when visibility has improved, as 'Winter Viewpoints Photography, Figure 15.24: Representative Photo-view' is adversely affected by low cloud/mist which restricts visibility of the site. In clear conditions the site would be visible, and in certain light conditions the wider site would be highlighted. This should be reflected in the photography and narrative which accompanies the LVIA, in particular as there is no wireframe provided for this viewpoint. As previously acknowledged, both the material and colour selection are important mitigation factors which are yet to be determined.* *b) The LVIA narrative should be clearer in explaining that Moel Famau is 'representative' of other high points on the ridge line of hill forts, including Moel Arthur at 456m*	a) Updated photography, during clear weather conditions, for Viewpoint 15 is included in **Figure 15-24A: Summer Viewpoint Photography** (**EN010166/APP/6.3**). b) The baseline description for Viewpoint 15 - Moel Famau, Jubilee Tower, Offa's Dyke Way, Llangynhafal, Denbighshire has been modified to state the viewpoint is representative of available long-distance views located in the Clwydian Range National Landscape within **Appendix 15-C: Representative Viewpoints** (**EN010166/APP/6.4**). c) The ZTV has been updated to reflect stack height changes and is presented on **Figure 15-8: Zone of Theoretical Visibility - 145 m CCP Absorber Column (including Stack) Height plus 7.4 m Raised Ground Level** (**EN010166/APP/6.3**).

Consultee	Comment	Response
	and Moel y Parc at 398m which are all on the Offa's Dyke long distance footpath. *c) The Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) analysis was prepared for the tallest element (the absorber stack(s)) at 128m above ordnance datum (AOD). At this height visibility of the development within the CRDV NL was primarily confined to the ridgeline around and including Moel Famau. The application should include a revised ZTV to reflect the stack height increase to a maximum of 150m.*	
Flint Town Council	***1. Visual and Environmental Impact**: The Council strongly objects to the potential visual impact of the development on local residents and landscapes. Particular concern centres on the introduction of 150-metre-tall chimneys, which will dominate the skyline and may significantly detract from the visual character of the surrounding area. The Council requests clarification on:* • *Inclusion of a viewpoint from the Oakenholt Hall Conservation Area in the final Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), specifically in the updated Appendix D of the Landscape and Visual Amenity Report.* *While the project team indicated that three 3D visuals would be included in the EIA, the Council remains unconvinced that the full scale of the visual impact has been adequately presented. The Council requests comprehensive, independently produced modelling from key residential and tourism-related viewpoints.*	Representative viewpoints are taken from publicly accessible locations and follow guidance given within GLVIA3 and good practice. The entirety of Oakenholt Hall including access roads lies within privately owned land and therefore a viewpoint would not be taken from the Oakenholt Hall Conservation Area. Viewpoints 9, 10 and 11 are located within less than a 1.4 km radius from Oakenholt Hall at publicly accessible locations. Views from these locations have been assessed in detail in **Appendix 15-E: Visual Impact Assessment** (**EN010166/APP/6.4**) and are indicative of visual effects experienced from Oakenholt Hall. Updated Type 3 photomontages are illustrated on **Figures 15.25** to **15.30** (**EN010166/APP/6.3**). The photomontages have been prepared for operation at Year 15. The selection of viewpoints for photomontages considered views which would experience significant impacts as a result of the Proposed Development during operation, locations where the Proposed Development would be prominent in the view,

Consultee	Comment	Response
		through professional judgement or where specific locations have been requested through consultation. The photomontages prepared are based on guidance from the following publications: • Visual Representation of Development Proposals Technical Guidance Note 06/19 – Landscape Institute, 2019 (Ref 15-11); and • GLVIA3 (Ref 15-1).

Table 15-4 Targeted Consultation

Consultee	Summary of Comment	Response
Flint Town Council	The Council expects: • Transparent, accountable mitigation strategies for all identified environmental risks—including noise and vibration (e.g., from pile driving) in relation to nearby Listed Buildings; • Clear summaries of these assessments for public understanding. Full details of compensation mechanisms available to adversely affected residents and businesses, including: • How compensation will be calculated, • Who will administer the scheme, and • How the public will be made aware of it. Additionally, the Council requests: • Clarification on how often the project's environmental performance will be reviewed, and • How local residents will be kept informed of those findings.	Details of all mitigation and monitoring proposed is included within the **Commitments Register** (**EN010166/APP/6.10**).
Flint Town Council	The Council wishes to express its strong reservations regarding the scale, impact, and transparency of the proposed development. Key concerns relate to emissions, health and environmental implications, and the adequacy of public and stakeholder engagement to date. The Council strongly objects to the potential visual impact of the development on local residents and landscapes. Particular concern centres on the introduction of 150-metre-tall chimneys, which will dominate the skyline and may significantly detract from the visual character of the surrounding area. The Council requests clarification on:	Representative viewpoints are taken from publicly accessible locations and follows guidance given within GLVIA3 (Ref 15-1) and good practice. The entirety of Oakenholt Hall including access roads lies within privately owned land and therefore a viewpoint would not be taken from the Oakenholt Hall Conservation Area. Viewpoints 9, 10 and 11 are located within less than a 1.4 km radius from Oakenholt Hall at publicly accessible locations. Views from these locations have

Consultee	Summary of Comment	Response
	• why chimneys of this height are necessary and whether alternative, less visually intrusive options were considered; and • inclusion of a viewpoint from the Oakenholt Hall Conservation Area in the final Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), specifically in the updated Appendix D of the Landscape and Visual Amenity Report. While the project team indicated that three 3D visuals would be included in the EIA, the Council remains unconvinced that the full scale of the visual impact has been adequately presented. The Council requests comprehensive, independently produced modelling from key residential and tourism-related viewpoints. Further clarity is also required on the likely effect of the development on local tourism and the adjacent coastal and rural environments, which are considered areas of special interest.	been assessed in detail in **Appendix 15-E: Visual Impact Assessment** (**EN010166/APP/6.4**) and are indicative of visual effects experienced from Oakenholt Hall. Updated Type 3 photomontages are illustrated on **Figures 15.25-15.30** (**EN010166/APP/6.3**). The photomontages have been prepared for operation at Year 15. The selection of viewpoints for photomontages considered views which would experience significant impacts as a result of the Proposed Development during operation, locations where the Proposed Development would be prominent in the view, through professional judgement or where specific locations have been requested through consultation. The photomontages prepared are based on guidance from the following publications as stated in **Chapter 15: Landscape and Visual Amenity** (**EN010166/APP/6.2.15**): • Visual Representation of Development Proposals Technical Guidance Note 06/19 – Landscape Institute, 2019 (Ref 15-11), and • GLVIA3 (Ref 15-1).
Natural Resources Wales	We note the findings as outlined in Appendix D 'Landscape and Visual Amenity', but advise that the following points should be addressed in the final LVIA submitted for the examination stage:	Updated photography, during clear weather conditions, for Viewpoint 15 is included in

Consultee	Summary of Comment	Response
	a) As previously advised, the viewpoint photograph from Moel Famau should be retaken when visibility has improved, as 'Winter Viewpoints Photography, Figure 15.24: Representative Photo-view' is adversely affected by low cloud/mist which restricts visibility of the site. In clear conditions the site would be visible, and in certain light conditions the wider site would be highlighted. This should be reflected in the photography and narrative which accompanies the LVIA, in particular as there is no wire-frame provided for this viewpoint. As previously acknowledged, both the material and colour selection are important mitigation factors which are yet to be determined. b) The LVIA narrative should be clearer in explaining that Moel Famau is 'representative' of other high points on the ridge line of hill forts, including Moel Arthur at 456m and Moel y Parc at 398m which are all on the Offa's Dyke long distance footpath. c) The Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) analysis was prepared for the tallest element (the absorber stack(s)) at 128m above ordnance datum (AOD). At this height visibility of the development within the CRDV NL was primarily confined to the ridgeline around and including Moel Famau. The application should include a revised ZTV to reflect the stack height increase to a maximum of 150m.	**Figure 15A-24A: Summer Viewpoint Photography** (**EN010166/APP/6.3**). The baseline description for Viewpoint 15 - Moel Famau, Jubilee Tower, Offa's Dyke Way, Llangynhafal, Denbighshire has been modified to state the viewpoint is representative of other points along the ridge line within **Appendix 15-C: Representative Viewpoints (EN010166/APP/6.4).** The ZTV has been updated to reflect stack height changes and is presented on **Figure 15-8: Zone of Theoretical Visibility - 145 m CCP Absorber Column (including Stack) Height plus 7.4 m Raised Ground Level** (**EN010166/APP/6.3**).

Table 15-5: Additional Relevant Engagement

Consultee and date	Nature of Consultation	Summary of Response	How and where addressed
14/06/2024 Flintshire County Council (FCC)	Engaged with FCC on the proposed viewpoint locations for the ES.	FCC confirmed that they agreed that proposed viewpoint locations will provide a good representative sample for potential viewpoints. FCC requested that the Flintshire Leisure Tour route is also taken into consideration for potential viewpoints.	Flintshire Leisure Tour route was assessed during the summer photography site visit. The impact on the route has been considered from Viewpoint 6 Windmill, Halkyn Pentre and Viewpoint 9 Chester Road.
14/06/2024 Denbighshire County Council (DCC)	Engaged with DCC on the proposed viewpoint locations for the ES.	DCC are reassured that Moel Famau, Jubilee Tower, Offa's Dyke Way, Llangynhafal, Denbighshire have been included in the schedule of potential viewpoints and offer no further suggestion.	This position is noted.
08/05/2024 The Canal and River Trust (CRT)	Engaged with CRT on proposed viewpoint locations for the ES. A suite of maps was provided to identify CRT assets in the study area.	CRT confirmed that given the separation distance of the Proposed Development from CRT assets they have no comment to make on the suggested viewpoints and that the Proposed Development would not be visible / have any impact on their waterway.	This position is noted.
23/05/2024 NRW	Engaged with NRW on the proposed viewpoint locations for the ES.	NRW are reassured that Moel Famau, Jubilee Tower, Offa's Dyke Way, Llangynhafal, Denbighshire from within the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley (CRDV) National Landscape have been included in the schedule of potential viewpoints and noted the location falls outside of the 10 km study area.	Noted. The 10 km study area was redefined to include a viewpoint from Moel Famau as a representative view from CRDV.
Between 28/02/2024 and	Attempts were made to engage with Wirral Borough	No response has been received from either Council.	Potential landscape and visual effects within the administrative

Consultee and date	Nature of Consultation	Summary of Response	How and where addressed
18/06/2024 Wirral Borough Council and Cheshire West and Chester Council	Council and Cheshire West and Chester Council on the proposed viewpoint locations for the ES.		boundary of Wirral Borough Council and Cheshire West and Chester Councils have been considered in this chapter.

Scope of the Assessment

15.2.3 Following the scoping process that has been undertaken, the scope of the assessment (informed by the EIA Scoping Opinion – see **Appendix 1-B: Scoping Opinion** (**EN010166/APP/6.4**)) considered in this chapter of the ES is as follows:

- the assessment on landscape and visual receptors during construction;
- the assessment of landscape and visual receptors during winter and summer at operation;
- the assessment of landscape and visual receptors during decommissioning; and
- the assessment of visual effects at night-time during construction, operation and decommissioning.

15.2.4 The following aspects have not been considered within the scope of the assessment in this chapter of the ES:

- the unloading of Abnormal Indivisible Load (AIL) components and transportation along AIL routes (referred to as the 'Accommodation Works Areas') as these are considered in **Appendix 5-A: Environmental Screening of Accommodation Works** (**EN010166/APP/6.4**) which confirms no significant landscape and visual amenity effects would arise during these works; and
- the Hardstanding Expansion at Connah's Quay North Jetty as these are considered in **Appendix 5-B: Environmental Screening of the Hardstanding Expansion at Connah's Quay North Jetty** (**EN010166/APP/6.4**) which confirms no significant landscape and visual amenity effects would arise during these works

15.3 Assessment Methodology

15.3.1 Details of the assessment methodology are provided in **Appendix 15-A: Landscape and Visual Amenity Methodology** (**EN010166/APP/6.4**), and a summary is provided below.

Assessment Methods

15.3.2 Baseline data has been gathered from a desk-based assessment including study of Ordnance Survey (OS) maps and aerial photographs, publicly available documents such as landscape character assessments from local authorities within the study area and national character mapping available from NRW and Natural England. A number of site visits on the 12th January, 24th July, 7th and 8th March and 9th October 2024, 8th May 2025 and 18th March 2026 have been undertaken to provide valuable background knowledge on the existing character and impact of the Proposed Development on receptor groups such as residents and to record views from representative viewpoints.

Impact Assessment and Significance Criteria

15.3.3 Potential landscape and visual impacts and the resulting effects (both adverse and beneficial) are considered for the scenarios as detailed in **Chapter 4: The Proposed Development** (**EN010166/APP/6.2.4**) and **Chapter 5: Construction Management and Programme** (**EN010166/APP/6.2.5**), namely:

- construction;
- operation; and
- decommissioning.

15.3.4 Effects may be temporary, permanent, short-term, medium-term, or long-term. Landscape and visual effects may be further categorised as being either direct, i.e., originating from the development itself; or indirect and secondary, from consequential change resulting from the development.

15.3.5 To provide a level of consistency and transparency to the assessment and allow comparisons to be made between the various landscape and visual receptors subject to assessment, the assessment of effects is based on criteria outlined in Table 17 of **Appendix 15-A: Landscape and Visual Assessment Methodology** (**EN010166/APP/6.4**). When assessing the degree of individual effects, these may fall across several different categories and professional judgement is therefore used to determine which level best fits the overall effect on a landscape or visual receptor. GLVIA3 (Ref 15-1) dictates that this is not a prescriptive process and is provided as a guide to how combination of sensitivity and magnitude are typically combined.

Landscape Impact Assessment Methodology

15.3.6 In assessing the predicted effects from any likely impacts to the landscape resulting from the Proposed Development, the following aspects are considered:

- baseline landscape character;
- landscape sensitivity; and
- magnitude of likely impacts that may affect the landscape.

15.3.7 The landscape assessment considers both the direct and indirect impacts of the Proposed Development upon landscape elements and features (or components), as well as the impact upon the general landscape character of the surrounding area.

15.3.8 Sensitivity is a combination of value and susceptibility. The value of a landscape receptor is a reflection of its importance in terms of any designations that may apply, or its importance in itself as a landscape or landscape resource, which may be due to its ecological, cultural or recreational value. The susceptibility of the landscape to change is the degree to which a particular Landscape Character Area (LCA) or feature can accommodate changes or new features without unacceptable detrimental effects to its essential characteristics.

15.3.9 The magnitude of a predicted landscape impact relates to the size, extent or degree of change and duration likely to be experienced as a result of the Proposed Development. The magnitude takes into account whether there is a direct impact resulting in the loss of landscape components, or a change beyond the land-take of the Proposed Development that might have an effect on the character of the area, and whether the impact is permanent, temporary or reversible.

15.3.10 The relationship between sensitivity and magnitude of impact allows an assessment of the significance of predicted landscape effects to be made. **Table 15-6** describes the relationship between sensitivity and magnitude of impacts on the landscape to determine the level of effect.

Visual Impact Assessment Methodology

15.3.11 An assessment of visual effects deals with the effects of change on the views available to people and their visual amenity, referred to as 'receptors'. Receptors are primarily identified through the combination of:

- definition of the Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV), within which views of the Proposed Development may be possible; and
- professional judgment. The sensitivity of each receptor group is then evaluated as being high, medium, low, or very low through a combination of the value of view and susceptibility of the receptor.

15.3.12 Views from each identified representative viewpoint are recorded, considering the distance from the Main Development Area (as the crow flies), receptor type, and a short description of the view.

15.3.13 For the purposes of assessment, the sensitivity of a receptor and the magnitude of a likely impact are combined to assess the effects that the Proposed Development is predicted to have on existing and future baseline visual conditions for that given receptor. As previously described for the landscape impact assessment, specific terminology is used to describe the magnitude of impact (see **Appendix 15-A: Landscape and Visual Assessment Methodology** (**EN010166/APP/6.4**) for details). **Table 15-6** below describes the relationship between sensitivity and magnitude of impacts to determine the level of effect.

15.3.14 Although some visual receptors may consider the Proposed Development to be visually interesting, the assessment follows standard best practice methods and therefore assumes a worst-case scenario whereby significant changes to views as a result of new tall/ large structures or buildings in an existing relatively open area are generally considered to be adverse.

15.3.15 Viewpoint photography accompanying this assessment has been undertaken in accordance with best practice in Landscape Institute TGN 06/2019: Visual Representation of Development Proposals (Ref 15-11); Type 1 (annotated viewpoint photograph), Type 2 (wireline) and Type 4 (verified photomontages).

15.3.16 Although the assessment considers all structures relating to the Proposed Development, the focus of the assessment within this chapter assumes the worst-case scenario e.g. that the maximum height and number of stack(s)

would be equal across both Trains as outlined in **Chapter 4: The Proposed Development** (**EN010166/APP/6.2.4**).

15.3.17 To facilitate the reader's interpretation of the information, baseline photography, wireline imagery and photomontages illustrating the Proposed Development (see **Figures 15-10** to **15-24, Figures 15-10A-15-24A**, and **Figures 15-25** to **15-30** (**EN010166/APP/6.3**)), using the layout shown in **Figure 4-1** and **4-2** (**EN010166/APP/6.3**), have been prepared.

Study Area

15.3.18 The extent of the LVIA study area is determined by the potential visibility of the Proposed Development in the surrounding landscape. It is proportionate to the size and scale of the Proposed Development and nature of the surrounding landscape. GLVIA3 (Ref 15-1) states that the study area should include *"the full extent of the wider landscape around it which the proposed development may influence in a significant manner"*.

15.3.19 For the purposes of this LVIA the study area has been defined by a combination of ZTV analysis and professional judgement. The initial study area extended 10 km from the Order limits (excluding the Accommodation Works Areas). This was informed by consideration of the location and scale of the Proposed Development, desk-based analysis of mapping and aerial photography. Fieldwork was subsequently undertaken to verify the findings of the desk study including viewpoint verification, and assessment of effects on landscape and visual receptors. This analysis determined the extent of the study area as described below, which defines the extent in which the Proposed Development may result in significant landscape or visual effects.

15.3.20 With reference to **Figure 15-1: Study Area** (**EN010166/APP/6.3**), the study area is described below:

- to the north approximately 5 to 13 km from the Main Development Area;
- to the south approximately 4 to 6 km from the Main Development Area;
- to the east approximately 10 km from the Main Development Area; and
- to the west approximately 11 km from the Main Development Area.

15.3.21 Based upon the nature of the works required within the Proposed CO_2 Connection Corridor and Water Connection Corridor (taking account of all permanent above ground structures), it is considered highly unlikely that significant effects would be experienced further than 2 km from them. Therefore, these connection corridors fall within the study area which has been applied to the Main Development Area.

Zone of Theoretical Visibility

15.3.22 Two ZTVs have been produced in order to identify locations within the study area with the potential to gain views of the Proposed Development. The ZTVs are illustrated on the following figures:

- **Figure 15-7: Zone of Theoretical Visibility - 65 m Main Site Structures plus 7.4 Raised Ground Level (excluding absorber**

stacks(s), HRSG stacks and CCP absorbers) (**EN010166/APP/6.3**); and

- **Figure 15-8: Zone of Theoretical Visibility - 145 m CCP Absorber Column (including Stack) Height plus 7.4 m Raised Ground Level** (**EN010166/APP/6.3**).

15.3.23 Figure 15-7: Zone of Theoretical Visibility - 65 m Main Site Structures plus 7.4 Raised Ground Level (excluding absorber stacks(s), HRSG stacks and CCP absorbers) shows the ZTV of the Proposed Development structures at up to 65 m height (AGL) excluding the CCP absorbers (92 m AGL), absorber stack(s) (145 m AGL), and HRSG stacks (130 m AGL). With the exception of these, the Proposed Development would not introduce new buildings or structures that are significantly taller than those of the existing Connah's Quay Power Station.

15.3.24 Figure 15-8: Zone of Theoretical Visibility - 145 m CCP Absorber Column (including Stack) Height plus 7.4 m Raised Ground Level (EN010166/APP/6.3) shows the theoretical visual extent of the tallest proposed structures, i.e., the CCP Absorber Stacks. These would have a height of up to 145 m Above Ground Level (AGL) and would be located on 7.4 m (AGL) raised ground resulting in a total height of 152.4 m Above ordnance Datum (AOD).

15.3.25 The ZTV has been generated by analysis of a Digital Terrain Model (DTM) of the surrounding terrain and the Proposed Development. Existing buildings have been incorporated into the DTM from OS Open Map Local with an assumed height of 7.4 m. Woodland from the National Forest Inventory has also been incorporated into the DTM with an assumed height of 12 m. The ZTV is based upon a grid of points at 50 m apart within the Proposed Development footprint, with an observer eye height of 1.6 m.

Significance criteria

15.3.26 The relationship between the sensitivity of receptors and the magnitude of likely impacts allows the relative significance of predicted effects on landscape and visual receptors to be defined. **Table 15-6** shows the relationship between receptor sensitivity / value, and magnitude of impact, and is a guide to allow, in combination with professional judgement, the relative level of significance of any predicted visual effects to be categorised.

15.3.27 Professional judgement ensures that the approach and determination of the significance of effects remain proportional and appropriate to the nature and location of the receptor / receptor groups.

15.3.28 For the purposes of this assessment, moderate and major effects are generally considered 'significant' in accordance with standard EIA practice; while minor and negligible effects are generally considered to be 'not significant'. Where significant adverse environmental effects are identified, measures to mitigate these effects are proposed (where reasonably practicable) and any remaining likely significant residual effects are identified. The significance criteria is detailed in **Appendix 15-A: Landscape and Visual Assessment Methodology** (**EN010166/APP/6.4**).

15.3.29 A Classification of Landscape and Visual Effects Significance matrix is shown in **Table 15-6** overleaf.

Table 15-6: Significance Matrix

Receptor sensitivity / Value	Magnitude of Impact			
	High	**Medium**	**Low**	**Very Low**
High	Major	Major	Moderate	Minor
Medium	Major	Moderate	Minor	Negligible
Low	Moderate	Minor	Negligible	Negligible
Very Low	Minor	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible

Data Sources

15.3.30 Field work was undertaken by a Landscape Architect on 10th and 11th January 2024, 6th March 2024, 25th and 26th July 2024, 9th October 2024 ~~and~~, 8th May 2025 and 18th March 2026 to provide background knowledge on the existing landscape character of the study area and to record potential views that receptors would have of the Proposed Development from representative viewpoints to inform this assessment.

Rochdale Envelope

15.3.31 The setting of design parameters using the Rochdale Envelope approach is described in **Chapter 2: Assessment Methodology** (**EN010166/APP/6.2.2**). The maximum parameters for the principal components of the Proposed Development are fixed in the **Design Principles Document** (**EN010166/APP/7.8**), the **Works Plans** (**EN010166/APP/2.4**) and the **Parameter Plans** (**EN010166/APP/2.5**). These parameters, together with assumptions regarding the future plans for the existing Connah's Quay Power Station set out in **Chapter 2: Assessment Methodology** (**EN010166/APP/6.2.2**) have been used to inform the reasonable worst-case scenario that has been assessed in this chapter, in order to provide a robust assessment of the impacts and likely significance of environmental effects of the Proposed Development.

15.3.32 The magnitude of visual impacts of the Proposed Development relates to (amongst other criteria) the size and scale of the structures and geographical extent of the area influenced by them. The assessment is based upon maximum dimensions for buildings and structures (i.e., the widest building footprint and tallest potential height) within the Main Development Area.

Assessment Assumptions and Limitations

15.3.33 Guidance (Ref 15-1) suggests that consideration be given to seasonal variation in effects where appropriate but acknowledges that the timing of the assessment may mean that this is not practical. Field work was undertaken during the winter season between January 2024 and March 2024. Summer season photography has been undertaken in July 2024 and May 2025. The missing leaf cover in the winter season represents therefore the worst-case scenario.

15.3.34 Assessment of visual impact through the use of representative viewpoints has been restricted by the limits of public access. In particular, it has not been possible to visit the upper stories of residential properties to accurately

record the views available. In these instances, an estimation of the view has been made from visiting nearby public vantage points.

15.3.35 Views of the Proposed Development other than those assessed are acknowledged to exist. The viewpoints are not intended to provide an exhaustive or fully comprehensive catalogue of views of the Proposed Development, rather they provide a representative sample for the purpose of the landscape and visual amenity assessment, using viewpoints agreed with engagement parties.

15.3.36 The viewpoints that have been included within the assessment were based on representative views from where the receptor was considered the most sensitive (based on professional judgement).

15.4 Baseline Conditions and Study Area

Existing Landscape Baseline

15.4.1 At national scale, NRW defines 48 National Landscape Character Areas (NLCA) at a broad landscape scale throughout Wales. Each profile includes a description of the natural and cultural features that shape the landscape. The study area falls within two NLCA. Refer to **Appendix 15-B: Landscape Character** (**EN010166/APP/6.4**) for the baseline descriptions for each of the NLCA identified below.

National Landscape Character Areas (Wales)

- NLCA 12 - Bryniau Clwyd/ Clwydian Range (Ref 15-16); and
- NLCA 13 - Glannau Dyfrdwy a Wrecsam/ Deeside and Wrexham (Ref 15-17).

15.4.2 The Construction and Operation Area is located within NLCA 13: Deeside and Wrexham (NLCA13), defined by NRW as shown in **Figure 15-4A: National Landscape Character Areas** (**EN010166/APP/6.3**).

15.4.3 The likelihood of significant landscape effects on NLCA 12 - Bryniau Clwyd/ Clwydian Range is considered negligible, as a result of the very limited intervisibility and distance from the Main Development Area and is therefore not considered further.

National Character Areas (England)

15.4.4 Natural England provides 159 National Character Areas (NCA) profiles. The study area encompasses three NCA to be considered. Refer to **Appendix 15-B: Landscape Character** (**EN010166/APP/6.4**) and **Figure 15-4A: National Landscape Character Areas** (**EN010166/APP/6.3**) for the baseline descriptions for each of the NCA identified below:

- NCA 59: Wirral (Ref 15-18);
- NCA 60: Mersey Valley (Ref 15-19); and
- NCA 61: Shropshire, Chesire and Staffordshire Plain (Ref 15-20).

15.4.5 The likelihood of significant landscape effects on NCA 60 and NCA 61 is considered negligible, as a result of the very limited intervisibility and

distance from the Main Development Area and is therefore not considered further.

Marine Character Area

15.4.6 Refer to Appendix 15-B: Landscape Character (EN010166/APP/6.4) and Figure 15-4A: National Landscape Character Areas (EN010166/APP/6.3) for the baseline descriptions for each of the MCA identified below.

15.4.7 The Main Development Area is situated along the southern shore of the Dee Estuary. The Water Connection Corridor is located within Marine Character Area (MCA) 01: Dee Estuary (Ref 15-21 and Ref 15-22) and MCA 36 – Dee and Mersey Estuaries and Coastal Waters (Ref 15-22). MCA 01: Dee Estuary overlaps MCA 36 - Dee and Mersey Estuaries and Coastal Waters therefore an assessment of MCA 36 has been carried out for the area that lies out with MCA 01.

15.4.8 The Dee Estuary is designated as a Ramsar site, Special Area of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Area (SPA), and Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) due to its size and topography, its assemblage of diverse marine, coastal, and intertidal habitats, and its importance for passage and wintering waterfowl and intertidal plant species. The area of land directly north of the Main Development Area is comprised of large tracts of intertidal mudflats and saltmarsh within the Dee Estuary and are regularly underwater at high tide as outlined in **Chapter 12: Marine Ecology** (**EN010166/APP/6.2.12**).

Local Landscape Character Areas

15.4.9 At a local level, the study area is covered by a number of Landscape Character Areas (LCAs), as set out within Landscape Character Assessment documents as listed below. Refer to **Appendix 15-B: Landscape Character** (**EN010166/APP/6.4**) for the baseline descriptions for each of the LCA identified below, and to **Figure 15-4B** (**EN010166/APP/6.3**).

15.4.10 The study area is covered by the following LCAs within The Wirral Landscape Character Assessment (Ref 15-23):

- LCA 1b Dee Estuarine Edge;
- LCA 3b Thurstaston and Greasby Sandstone Hills;
- LCA 3c Irby and Pensby Sandstone Hills;
- LCA 3d Heswall Dales Sandstone Hills;
- LCA 4b Thornton Hough Lowland Farmland Estates; and
- LCA 6a Dee Estuary.

15.4.11 At a local level, the study area is covered by the following LCAs within A Landscape Strategy for Cheshire West and Cheshire Borough (Ref 15-24):

- LCA4d: Burton and Shotwich;
- LCA 6a: Willaston;
- LCA 6b: Neston;

- LCA 6c: Neston and Saughall;
- LCA 6d: Ness, Burton, Puddington & Shotwick Slopes;
- LCA 6e: Capenhurst Plateau;
- LCA9d: Saughall to Waverton Plain; and
- LCA16b: Dee Estuary.

15.4.12 At a local level, the study area is covered by the following LCAs within the LANDMAP Wales (Ref 15-25):

- LCA Built Land;
- LCA Coastal Intertidal Marsh;
- LCA Lowland;
- LCA Mosaic Rolling Lowland; and
- LCA Upland.

Landscape Designations

15.4.13 The Main Development Area is situated approximately 5 km east from the NLCA 12 – Bryniau Clwyd/ Clwydian Range which includes the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley National Landscape (CRDV). This is shown in **Figure 15-3: Landscape Context** (**EN010166/APP/6.3**).

15.4.14 The most extensive upland areas in the Clwydian Range are centered on Moel Famau. These are areas of smooth, open, rounded, and distinctively shaped heather-clad hills. Their undulating ridge lines and skylines, together with rolling profiles, create a distinctive landscape. Designated a National Landscape, Halkyn Mountain is rural and quiet and undeveloped despite a number of quarries. With its relatively low population density, it contributes to a sense of quietness and tranquillity that contrasts with the industrial and urbanised character of Deeside and Wrexham to the east. The landscape value is considered to be high.

15.4.15 Cheshire West and Chester Council identify 'Areas of Special County Value'. One area, Area 2 - Dee Coastal Area (ASCV) (Ref 15-26), is located within the study area. The county significance of the Dee Coastal Area ASCV relates in a large part to the context it sets as a transitional landscape between land and the intertidal Dee Estuary saltmarsh and mudflats, and the opportunities it offers for experiencing the undeveloped, accessible and highly distinctive coastline with outstanding panoramic views.

Estuarine and Marine features

15.4.16 The Dee Estuary and the broad flat flood plain is a dynamic and ecologically significant landscape. Characterised by its estuarine and marine features, it supports a variety of habitats and species. The estuary contains a network of tidal channels and sandbanks, which are constantly reshaped by hydrodynamic forces.

15.4.17 Extensive intertidal mudflats and sandflats dominate the estuarine landscape, particularly in the middle and upper reaches. These areas are

vital feeding grounds for migratory birds. Fringing the estuary, saltmarshes provide important habitats for a range of species and act as natural buffers against coastal erosion and flooding.

15.4.18 Industrial activities and historical land reclamation have shaped the shoreline.

Topography

15.4.19 The most extensive upland areas in the Clwydian Range are centered on Moel Famau at 554 m AOD and Moel y Gamelin at 577 m AOD. Areas of smooth, open, rounded, and distinctively shaped heather-clad hills gently roll towards the Dee Estuary. Their undulating ridge lines and skylines, together with rolling profiles, create a distinctive landscape of sinuous, organic form. A number of minor rivers dissect the landscape, for example, the Alyn and Eitha, and associated streams.

15.4.20 A sandstone ridge dissects the Wirral peninsula and separates the pastoral landscape of central Wirral from the industrial areas of Merseyside. A network of small streams and drainage ditches enter the Dee Estuary.

Vegetation Cover

15.4.21 Hedgerows and numerous hedgerow trees follow the complex lines of rock exposure, resulting in a very small-scale, intimate, enclosed farmed landscape with small pastures and woodland. Upper areas are exposed by hill sheep grazing and lowlands comprise of occasional large-scale coniferous plantations. The extensive upland Clwydian Range distinctively shaped heather-clad hills overlook a simple landscape, very much marked with seasonal colour contrast.

15.4.22 Woodland in Wirral is predominantly broadleaved, with woodland cover on sandstone ridges, country parks and country estates.

Settlements

15.4.23 South of the Dee Estuary, a settled character is apparent with the relatively large, almost linked settlements of Holywell-Connah's Quay-Mold-Wrexham-Ruabon, otherwise a sparse level of settlement is largely confined to compact, nucleated hamlets and isolated farmsteads. Ribbon developments and encroachment on the commons are the legacy of the former coal and lead mining industries.

15.4.24 The settlement pattern on the Wirral is a mixture of large country houses and estates, villages, and areas of residential dwellings such as West Kirkby, Heswall and Parkgate which are located along the Dee estuary.

Transportation Infrastructure

15.4.25 The study area contains a number of arterial 'A' roads, including the A55 Expressway which lies across the northern part of Flintshire. The A548 (Coast Road) runs parallel to the coast from Prestatyn to Chester, providing a key route through the coastal towns of Prestatyn, Rhyl, Flint, Connah's Quay, and the Deeside Industrial Park.

15.4.26 The North Wales Main Line railway, which runs from between Crewe and Holyhead via Chester, is located in close proximity to the south of the Main Development Area. The line runs adjacent to the canalised River Dee.

15.4.27 A number of PRoW are identified within close proximity to the Construction and Operation Area. This is shown in **Figure 15-5: Public Rights of Way** (**EN010166/APP/6.3**).

15.4.28 FCC Footpaths 27 and 28 lie in close proximity to the Construction and Indicative Enhancement Area (C&IEA). FCC Footpath 28 runs alongside the southern border of the C&IEA, approximately less than 5 m from the Order limits. FCC Footpath 27 lies across the North Wales Main Line, terminating approximately 20 m south of the Order limits.

15.4.29 A cluster of PRoWs is located to the south of the Main Development Area, within 1 km of the Construction and Operation Area. These include FCC Footpaths 1, 2, 3, and 72.

15.4.30 FCC Footpath 66 crosses the Proposed CO_2 Connection Corridor and the Repurposed CO_2 Connection Corridor, and FCC Footpath 67 partially crosses the Repurposed CO_2 Connection Corridor. Additionally, FCC Footpath 69 is located approximately 40 m south of the Repurposed CO_2 Connection Corridor.

The Main Development Area and its Immediate setting

15.4.31 The Main Development Area lies adjacent to the Dee Estuary and includes the existing Connah's Quay Power Station. There is a strong industrial character along the Dee Estuary at Connah's Quay and Holywell that includes large scale power generation and industrial plants.

15.4.32 The Main Development Area includes operational parts of the existing Connah's Quay Power Station to the south-east and three fields currently used for agricultural uses to the north-west.

15.4.33 The Main Development Area is bordered to the north, north-east and north-west by the Dee Estuary, to the east and south-east by the existing National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET) 400 kV substation, and to the south and south-west by the North Wales Main Line Railway.

Study Area

15.4.34 The LVIA study area is as described in Section 15.3 and is illustrated on **Figure 15-1: Study Area** (**EN010166/APP/6.3**).

Existing Visual Baseline

15.4.35 Visibility within the study area is limited by built form, topography, and intervening vegetation. There are frequent, open views towards the Main Development Area from higher ground from the south-west and sloping ground towards the Dee estuary. Due to the low-lying land bordering the Dee Estuary, open panoramic views are available across the estuary, along coastal roads, and slightly elevated open spaces where there is an absence of built form and vegetation.

Visual Receptors and Viewpoints

15.4.36 Following engagement with stakeholders (refer to Section 15.2 above), a total of 15 viewpoints have been chosen to represent the typical range of views of the Proposed Development from within the study area. These are listed in **Table 15-7** overleaf and illustrated on **Figure 15-6: Representative Viewpoint Locations** (**EN010166/APP/6.3**).

Table 15-7: Location of Visual receptors and Value of the View

View point	Name and Location	Receptor Type	Elevation (AoD)	Grid Reference	View
1	Thurstaston Common, Thurstaston, Wirral	Recreational	85.08	324445, 384709	**Winter:** Long distance, open view across the Dee Estuary with rising landform visible in the distance. A belt of trees is visible in the foreground with farmland and limited built structures visible in the middle ground. Representative of long range views from west of Wirral. **Night-time:** No direct light sources are present at this location. A sky glow from the existing Connah's Quay Power Station and other urban areas in the vicinity is visible in the distance, located on the adjacent shoreline. Existing aviation warning lighting is present on the stacks associated with the existing Connah's Quay Power Station. Overall, there are low levels of night-time lighting at this location. **Value of view:** Locally valued view with low level of detractors. Medium
2	Wirral Country Park, Cady, Wirral	Recreational	22.32	323894, 383154	**Winter:** Long distance, open view across the Dee Estuary from the Wirral Country Park. The existing Connah's Quay Power Station and plumes from stacks are visible in the distance and form part of the industrialised composition alongside Flint Bridge. Rising ground composed of woodland is visible on the horizon. **Night-time:** No direct light sources are present at this location. A sky glow from Connah's Quay urban area and road network is present on the adjacent shoreline. Existing aviation warning lighting is present on the taller structures associated with the existing Connah's Quay Power Station.

View point	Name and Location	Receptor Type	Elevation (AoD)	Grid Reference	View
					Overall, there are low levels of night-time lighting at this location. **Value of view:** Locally valued view with low level of detractors. Medium
3	Marine Drive, Heswall, Wirral	Residential	8.65	325911, 380959	**Winter:** Long distance panoramic view across the Dee Estuary towards the far shore. The plume from the existing Connah's Quay Power Station is discernible from this location. Saltmarsh is visible in the foreground with development and landform visible on the far shore in the background of the view. **Night-time:** No direct light sources are present at this location. Overspill from adjacent street and residential lighting. A sky glow from Connah's Quay urban area is visible on the far shoreline. Existing aviation warning lighting is present on the stacks associated with the existing Connah's Quay Power Station. Overall, there are low levels of night-time lighting at this location. **Value of view**: Locally valued view with low level of detractors. Medium
4	The Parade, Parkgate, Neston, Cheshire West, and Chester	Residential, employment, road users	6.74	327922, 378087 (Winter Image) 327920, 378086 (Summer Image)	**Winter:** Long distance panoramic view across the Dee Estuary towards Flintshire. On a clear day the existing Connah's Quay Power Station is visible in the distance alongside power, industrial and road infrastructure along the Flintshire shoreline. Street furniture and streetscape elements are visible in the foreground. **Night-time**: Street lighting and lighting from residential properties is present at this location. Distant sky glow is

View point	Name and Location	Receptor Type	Elevation (AoD)	Grid Reference	View
					visible along the Flintshire shoreline and from Connah's Quay. Overall, there are medium levels of night-time lighting at this location. **Value of view:** Locally valued view with low level of detractors. Medium
5	Neston Road, (A540Neston, Cheshire West and Chester	Residential, road users	47.34	330874, 374959	**Winter:** Long distance, partially screened views of the Dee Estuary. Residential and farm structures are visible in the foreground. The plumes associated with the existing Connah's Quay Power Station and other industrial activities along the Flintshire shoreline are visible in the background of the view. The Clwydian Range is visible in the background. **Night-time**: No direct light sources are present at this location. Distant sky glow is visible along the Flintshire shoreline, particularly associated with the urban areas of Flint and the existing Connah's Quay Power Station. Overall, there are low levels of night-time lighting at this location. **Value of view**: An ordinary view with low level of detractors. Low
6	Windmill, Halkyn, Pentre Halkyn, Flintshire, Wales	Residential, recreational, road users	267.67	320147, 371439	**Winter**: Long distance, elevated panoramic view of the Dee Estuary and the low-lying, undulating agricultural landscape along the estuary's fringes. Residential settlements at Flint and Connah's Quay and along the local road network are visible within the view. Flint Bridge, plumes associated with the existing Connah's Quay Power Station and industrial structures are visible towards the background of the view.

View point	Name and Location	Receptor Type	Elevation (AoD)	Grid Reference	View
					Rising landform within the Wirral Peninsula forms the skyline. **Night-time:** No direct light sources are present at this location. A sky glow from urban areas with street lighting and along the road network is present, particularly associated with the urban areas of Flint and Connah's Quay. Overall, there are low levels of night-time lighting at this location. **Value of view**: Locally valued view with low level of detractors. Medium
7	Bagillt, Deebank, Northwest of Flint Castle, Flintshire	Recreational	20.22	321722, 376090	**Winter:** Long-distance, open, partially elevated view east along the Dee estuary with tidal flats visible in the foreground. The stacks associated with the existing Connah's Quay Power Station extend above the Flint Foreshore headland in the background of the view, breaking the skyline. Flint Bridge, power infrastructure and the industrial structures are visible in the far distance. **Night-time:** No direct light sources are present at this location. A sky glow from Flint urban area and along the road network is present. Aviation warning lights on the power station stack are visible from this location. Overall, there are low levels of night-time lighting at this location. **Value of view:** Locally valued view with low level of detractors. Medium
8	Flint Castle, Castle Dyke Street, Flint, Flintshire	Visitors to heritage asset	7.07	324744, 373357	**Winter:** Mid-distance, open view east along the Dee Estuary from the vantage point of the Flint Castle walls. The estuarine waters and tidal flats are visible in the foreground

View point	Name and Location	Receptor Type	Elevation (AoD)	Grid Reference	View
					including Flint Town rugby ground. Industrial and power related structures along the Dee Estuary, including the existing Connah's Quay Power Station, overhead lines, pylons, and transmission lines are visible in the background of the view with some structures visible against the skyline. **Night-time:** No direct light sources are present at this location. Occasional lighting from the Flint Town United sports ground in the foreground. Skyglow from street lighting from the local road network and residential clusters around the Flint urban area is present. Aviation warning lights on the existing Connah's Quay Power Station stack are visible from this location. Overall, there are low levels of night-time lighting at this location. **Value of view**: View from heritage asset with medium level of detractors. Medium
9	Chester Road, Oakenholt, Flint, Flintshire	Residential, recreational, road users	7.23	325662, 372009	**Winter:** Mid-distance view east across grassland with residential dwellings along Chester Road (A548), Oakenholt visible in the foreground. The Dee Estuary is visible in the middle ground. The existing Connah's Quay Power Station, overhead lines, pylons, transmission lines are visible in the background of the view. **Night-time**: Street lighting along the Chester Road and lighting from the Flint Town United sports ground in the foreground. Skyglow from street lighting from the local road network and residential clusters around the Flint urban area is present. Aviation warning lights on the existing Connah's Quay Power Station are visible from this location. Overall, there are low levels of night-time lighting at this location.

View point	Name and Location	Receptor Type	Elevation (AoD)	Grid Reference	View
					Value of view: Ordinary view with medium level of detractors. Low
10	Kelsterton Road, Rockcliffe, Connah's Quay, Flintshire	Residential, road users	13.7	327390, 371095	**Winter:** Short distance view north towards the Main Development Area. The intervening mature vegetation and residential dwellings screen views of lower levels of the existing Connah's Quay Power Station, while taller elements are visible on the skyline. Overhead lines, pylons, transmission lines are visible in the view. **Night-time:** Street lighting is present on Kelsterton road. The existing Connah's Quay Power Station would adhere to the relevant Standards/ Regulations compliant with public lighting design. Aviation warning lights on the existing Connah's Quay Power Station stacks are visible from this location. Overall, there are low levels of night-time lighting at this location. **Value of view:** Ordinary view with medium level of detractors. Low
11	Kelsterton cemetery, Memorial Garden, Rockcliffe, Connah's Quay, Flintshire	Cemetery visitors	12.83	327687, 370631	**Winter:** Short distance view north across farmland towards the Proposed Development. The existing Connah's Quay Power Station is the main focus of the view, although undulating topography and intervening mature vegetation filter low level views of infrastructure. Overhead transmission lines and pylons are visible within the view. **Night-time:** Street lighting is present along the local road network. Aviation warning lights on the existing Connah's Quay Power Station stacks are visible from this location.

View point	Name and Location	Receptor Type	Elevation (AoD)	Grid Reference	View
					Overall, there are low levels of night-time lighting at this location. **Value of view:** Ordinary view with medium level of detractors. Low
12	York Road, Golftyn, Connah's Quay, Flintshire	Residential, road users, recreational	7.27	328398, 370279	**Winter:** Medium distance view north-west towards the Main Development Area. The intervening mature vegetation and residential dwellings screen views of lower levels of the existing Connah's Quay Power Station, while taller elements are partially visible through and above the vegetation. **Night-time:** A sky glow from the road network including street lighting from the B5129 and the A548 is visible. Aviation warning lights on the Power Station stacks are visible from this location. Overall, there are medium levels of night-time lighting at this location. **Value of view:** Ordinary view with medium level of detractors. Low
13	National Cycle Route (NCR) 568 Sealand, Flintshire	Recreational	4.69	331334, 369309	**Winter:** Medium distance view from the Wales Coastal Path (NCR 5 and 568) towards the Main Development Area. Views are partially screened by the Millenium Greenway - Hawarden Bridge. The canal towpath and Dee Estuary are visible in the foreground. Overhead lines, pylons, transmission lines are visible in the background of the view. **Night-time:** Streetlights are not present at this location. A sky glow from intervening Connah's Quay urban streetlights is visible. Aviation warning lights on the Power Station stacks are visible from this location. Overall, there are low levels of night-time lighting at this location.

View point	Name and Location	Receptor Type	Elevation (AoD)	Grid Reference	View
					Value of view: Locally valued view with medium level of detractors. Medium
14	RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands, Cheshire West, and Chester	Recreational	5.43	331426, 373437 (Winter Image) 331550, 373312 (Summer Image)	**Winter/Summer:** The summer photography relocated this viewpoint slightly to gain an open view across the Dee Estuary. The viewpoint is located at a medium distance and contains partially screened views of the Dee Estuary towards the Main Development Area. The Dee Estuary Burton Mere Wetlands visitor center affords panoramic views over Burton Mere Wetlands, the Dee Estuary, and the Welsh hills beyond. **Night-time:** Streetlights are not present at this location. A sky glow from Connah's Quay streetlights is present across the Dee estuary. Aviation warning lights on the existing Connah's Quay Power Station stacks are visible from this location. Overall, there are very low levels of night-time lighting at this location. **Value of view:** Locally valued view visited to observe wildlife. Medium
15	Moel Famau, Jubilee Tower, Offa's Dyke Way, Llangynhafal, Denbigshire	Recreational	553.43	316166, 362655 (Winter Image) 316164, 362660 (Summer Image)	**Winter/Summer:** Long distance, expansive panoramic view from Moel Famau towards Connah's Quay. The view includes a number of landscapes features including residential settlements and landscape vegetation. The viewpoint is representative of other high points on the ridge line of hill forts, including Moel Arthur at 456 m and Moel y Parc at 398 m, which are all located along the Offa's Dyke long distance footpath.

View point	Name and Location	Receptor Type	Elevation (AoD)	Grid Reference	View
					At this distance, the visibility of the Main Development Area would highly depend on weather conditions as illustrated in the winter and summer photography. **Night-time:** Streetlights are not present at this location. A sky glow from Connah's Quay, Flint and surrounding settlements along the road network is visible. **Value of view:** Nationally valued view from within the National Landscape. High

Dynamic Views

15.4.37 Users of the main transport routes and long-distance trails experience dynamic views towards the existing Connah's Quay Power Station to varying degrees, dependent on intervening structures, screening vegetation, elevation, and direction of travel.

15.4.38 Users of the NCR 5 and along the public path on the north bank of the River Dee experience transient, dynamic views towards the existing Connah's Quay Power Station. Views include the Dee estuary and a landscape containing large areas of mud flats, industrial structures along the shoreline, overhead power lines, road and bridge infrastructure and electrical infrastructure. In close proximity to the Main Development Area, the existing Connah's Quay Power Station is prominent within available views.

15.4.39 Users of the Dee Estuary experience dynamic and ever-changing views, often influenced by tidal change, the extent of mudflat landform and intervening vegetation. Views include a number of prominent existing industrial structures.

15.4.40 Within the study area there are a number of local roads in close proximity of the existing Connah's Quay Power Station which join the settlements. Generally, views from these roads are dynamic and ever changing. Views are often broken or restricted by screening vegetation and built form located along the road corridors. Where views are open, the structures associated with the existing Connah's Quay Power Station are clearly visible, appearing prominent in close proximity to the Main Development Area.

Summary of Visual Baseline

15.4.41 The study area is characterised by the Dee Estuary with low lying land along the estuarine fringes, influenced in parts by industrial development. Large scale pylons and transmission lines transect the landscape. Higher ground at Halkyn Mountain affords open, distant views of Connah's Quay, while long distance views from Moel Famau are potentially available. Open views across the Dee estuary from the north and north-west towards Connah's Quay are readily available. In localised areas to the south and south-west, undulating topography and small, isolated woodlands and hedgerows offer a degree of visual enclosure.

15.4.42 The extent of views available to receptors range from close proximity to long distance. A number of receptors are located at the edge of Flint and Connah's Quay urban areas, along the local road network and from nearby PRoW / NCR adjacent to the Main Development Area. Open and partial views west (from England) across the Dee Estuary from the coastal road network are available. The rising landform to the west and localised areas of slightly raised ground along the A540 to the north allow for elevated long-distance views towards the Main Development Area.

Future Baseline

15.4.43 The future baseline scenarios are set out in **Chapter 2: EIA Methodology** (**EN010166/APP/6.2.2**).

15.4.44 The future baseline is a prediction of baseline conditions in the future, assuming the Proposed Development has not been, or is not being, constructed.

15.4.45 The wider study area will continue to be influenced by a number of existing large-scale power related structures including the power station, substations, and infrastructure corridors in the future baseline scenario.

15.4.46 In the absence of the Proposed Development the future baseline is therefore unlikely to undergo substantial changes in comparison to the existing baseline.

15.5 Development Design and Embedded Mitigation

15.5.1 The Proposed Development has been designed, as far as possible, to avoid or minimise impacts and effects on landscape and visual amenity through the process of design development, and by embedding measures into the design of the Proposed Development.

15.5.2 The following key embedded impact avoidance measures incorporated into the design include:

- the layout of the Proposed Development which follows a broadly linear configuration with the massing of the main built elements 'centralised' and sited in proximity to the existing Connah's Quay Power Station (refer to Plate 4-5 in **Chapter 4: The Proposed Development** (**EN010166/APP/6.2.4**);
- suitable materials would be used, where reasonably practicable, in the construction of structures to reduce reflections and to assist with breaking up the massing of the buildings and structures, to be secured through the **Design Principles Document** (**EN010166/APP/7.8**);
- the proposed design, in particular the designs of the absorber column(s) (stack) and the CCGT and HRSG stack(s), would include consideration of appearance to reduce visual impact, accepting the scale of the Proposed Development. This would include a colour study of the existing colour/ materials of the surrounding natural landscape palette and the existing power station building, including using lighter coloured materials on the taller structures to enable them to recede against the sky, to be secured through the **Design Principles Document** (**EN010166/APP/7.8**);
- development would be designed to reduce unnecessary light spill outside of the Main Development Area, in accordance with the **Lighting Strategy** (**EN010166/APP/7.22**); and
- the C&IEA (following the completion of Proposed Development, the construction laydown as described in **Chapter 5: Construction Programme and Management** (**EN010166/APP/6.2.5**) together with reinstated areas of the Proposed Development that have been used for construction, as set out in the **Outline LEMP** (**EN010166/APP/6.9**), would be reinstated, and used for ecological mitigation and to secure an overall Net Benefit for Biodiversity. The **Outline LEMP** (**EN010166/APP/6.9**) describes these measures.

15.5.3 Further information on the proposed design and design alternatives is included in **Chapter 6: Project Alternatives** (**EN010166/APP/6.2.6**).

15.6 Assessment of Likely Impacts and Effects

15.6.1 Taking into account the Proposed Development design and embedded mitigation measures in Section 15.5 above, the potential impacts and effects of the Proposed Development have been assessed using the methodology as detailed in Section 15.3 of this chapter and within **Appendix 15-A: Landscape and Visual Amenity Methodology** (**EN010166/APP/6.4**).

Likely Impacts and Effects

15.6.2 The potential landscape and visual impacts of the Proposed Development primarily relate to the visibility of the proposed structures (temporary and permanent), including how this affects the perceptual qualities and tranquillity of a character area and the direct loss of landscape features within the Site.

15.6.3 In the case of the construction phase of the Proposed Development this would relate to the following:

- permanent removal of areas of grassland;
- removal of areas of vegetative scrub for construction laydown activities;
- the introduction of stationary and moving plant including cranes and piling rigs and other high level construction machinery;
- the introduction of low-level construction activities including temporary stockpiling of storage of materials, contractor/ welfare facilities and temporary laydown areas;
- construction vehicles including Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGV) entering and leaving the Site and surrounding area; and
- the progressive construction of tall structures including new elements of height such as the CCP Absorber stacks and the HRSG stacks.

15.6.4 In the case of the operational phase of the Proposed Development this would relate to the following:

- introduction of large-scale buildings and structures within the maximum parameters set out in **Chapter 4: The Proposed Development** (**EN010166/APP/6.2.4**);
- introduction of additional site lighting, where required for operational safety;
- movement of additional vehicles within and around the operational area; and
- potential visibility of plumes from the Proposed Development including cooling towers at certain times of the year.

15.6.5 In the case of the decommissioning phase of the Proposed Development this would largely be the same as the construction phase, but in reverse.

15.6.6 **Appendix 15-D: Landscape Impact Assessment** (**EN010166/APP/6.4**) provides an assessment of the sensitivity of each landscape receptor, an

assessment of the anticipated magnitude of landscape impacts and the classification of effects on each landscape receptor.

15.6.7 Section 15.8 provides a summary of receptors with likely significant landscape residual effects at construction, operation and decommissioning.

15.6.8 **Appendix 15-E: Visual Impact Assessment** (**EN010166/APP/6.4**) assesses how the Proposed Development would alter views for visual receptors including from 15 representative viewpoint locations located within the study area. The assessment includes both daytime and night-time conditions and considers how the Proposed Development would appear during construction, operation, and decommissioning phases. The assessment is accompanied by summer and winter photography as well as a set of photomontages produced for representative viewpoint locations (refer to **Figure 15-24: Winter Viewpoint Photography** (**EN010166/APP/6.3**), **Figure 15A-24A: Summer Viewpoint Photography** (**EN010166/APP/6.3**), and **Figure 25-30: Viewpoint Wireline Sheets (EN010166/APP/6.3**)). Section 15.8 provides a summary of receptors with likely significant visual amenity residual effects at construction, operation and decommissioning.

15.6.9 If the Proposed Development continued to be operational beyond the planned 30 year period, there would be no increase to and the impacts and resulting effects identified below would continue to be relevant.

Assessment of Landscape Effects

Construction and Operation

15.6.10 The Main Development Area is located in close proximity to the existing Connah's Quay Power Station. The Site includes power related structures including pylons and overhead lines. The main feature of change during construction of the Proposed Development would be the introduction of tall cranes and piling rigs.

15.6.11 Given the existing presence of large-scale power related developments on and adjacent to the Main Development Area, there would be a limited impact on landscape characteristics as a result of construction activities, including vehicle movements using the existing road network associated with the Proposed Development.

15.6.12 At operation, the increased massing of large-scale power related infrastructure would result in limited changes to key landscape characteristics in comparison to the baseline.

15.6.13 Due to the existing industrial setting of the Main Development Area, it is assessed that construction and operation would not result in an inherent change to the existing landscape character at a local scale, and as such the magnitude of landscape effects would be **very low** to **low**. The significance of effects would be **negligible adverse** to **minor adverse** (**not significant**).

15.6.14 At a regional or national scale, it is assessed that the magnitude of landscape impacts would be very low to low on landscape characteristics. The significance of effects would be **negligible adverse** to **minor adverse** (**not significant**).

15.6.15 As a result of long distance there would be no impacts on the special qualities of the CRDV National Landscape.

Assessment of Visual Effects

15.6.16 Potential visual effects of the Proposed Development in comparison with the baseline visual context are considered in **Appendix 15-E: Visual Impact Assessment** (**EN010166/APP/6.4**). A summary of the assessment is contained within **Table 15-8** below and should be read in conjunction with **Figures 15-10** to **15-24, Figures 15-10A-15-24A** and **Figures 15-25** to **15-30** (**EN010166/APP/6.3**) which illustrate the baseline situation at each viewpoint.

15.6.17 A series of photomontages and wirelines have been prepared in **Figures 15-25-15-30: Viewpoint Wireline Sheets** (**EN010166/APP/6.3**) which illustrate the likely visibility of the Proposed Development at five of the assessed viewpoints. The wirelines represent the heights of key elements of the Proposed Development as set out in Table 4-1 of **Chapter 4: The Proposed Development** (**EN010166/APP/6.2.4**).

15.6.18 The design of the Proposed Development would seek to minimise adverse impacts on visual amenity through appropriate siting of infrastructure including materials and colours (in line with NPS EN-1 (Ref 15-4)).

Construction and Operation

15.6.19 It is assessed that the progressive height and increasing massing of new structures would be the most visible aspect of construction activity relating to the Proposed Development. Earthworks and ground level activity would often be screened as a result of intervening landform and vegetation. Construction activities would largely be characteristic of the existing industrial context of the wider receiving environment.

15.6.20 The Proposed Development would often be seen in conjunction with the existing Connah's Quay Power Station and considering the land use of the surrounding areas for industry, the Proposed Development is not an uncharacteristic structure.

15.6.21 The visibility of construction activity and the operational Proposed Development within the wider study area to the north and beyond 1 km of the Site would range from long to middle distance views (refer to Viewpoints 1 to 5 and 14). A number of views are often restricted by intervening vegetation and structures. Where views are open, construction activity is viewed alongside the existing Connah's Quay Power Station and form part of a wider view. The magnitude of impact on visual amenity are assessed to result in very low to low resulting in **negligible to minor adverse** (**not significant**) effects.

15.6.22 The visibility of construction activity and the operational Proposed Development within the wider study area beyond 1 km would be limited to middle distance, open and partial views within Flintshire and open views across the Dee Estuary from the Wirral coastline (refer to Viewpoints 2 to 4 and 14). Impacts on visual amenity are assessed to be very low to low. The resulting effect would be **negligible to minor adverse** (**not significant**).

15.6.23 To the north-west of the Main Development Area, construction activity would be visible from the elevated view from Flint Castle (Viewpoint 8) and contain views of structures associated with the existing Connah's Quay Power Station and other power-related structures. The magnitude of visual impact is assessed to be medium. The resulting effect would be **moderate adverse** (**significant**) as a result of the high sensitivity of receptor and the close proximity of the view.

15.6.24 To the south and in close proximity to the Main Development Area, construction activity and the operational Proposed Development would be prominently visible as a result of the close distance. Views vary between open (Viewpoint 10) and partially screened (Viewpoints 11) and contain views of structures associated with the existing Connah's Quay Power Station. The magnitude of visual impact is assessed to range between medium to high. The resulting effects range between **moderate to major adverse** (**significant**) as a result of the medium sensitivity of receptor and the close proximity of the view.

15.6.25 Impacts arising from the Site at Jubilee Tower, the public viewing point at Moel Famau within the CRDV National Landscape (Viewpoint 15), assume a clear visibility. The magnitude of visual effects is assessed to be very low as a result of the long distance. The resulting effect would be **minor adverse** (**not significant**).

15.6.26 A summary of visual effects for all viewpoints is set out in **Table 15-8** overleaf.

Dynamic Views

15.6.27 Views from the Dee Estuary and users of the NCR 5 and the PRoW on the north bank of the River Dee are generally located within an estuarine landscape with intervening structures and vegetation occasionally limiting views. The value of the view is considered to be medium. Users of the Dee Estuary, NCR 5 and PRoW are typically likely to be involved in an activity that includes enjoyment of the view, resulting in a medium susceptibility and medium sensitivity. Views in proximity to the Main Development Area would either be clear and open or partially restricted by structures or vegetation. Views for these receptors would be similar to Viewpoint 8. Where views are available, the Proposed Development would be clearly visible, seen in the context of existing power related structures.

15.6.28 The magnitude of visual effects for dynamic views in close proximity to the Main Development Area are therefore predicted to be medium during all assessment scenarios. The significance would be **moderate adverse** (**significant**). The duration of effects would be medium to long term and reversible. For dynamic views further afield, it is predicted that the magnitude of visual effects for all assessment scenarios would be low. The resulting effect would be **minor adverse** (**not significant**). The duration of effects would range from medium to long term and be reversible.

15.6.29 The local roads within the study area that would gain views of the Proposed Development are located within and around the settlements including land between settlements. The value of the dynamic view is considered to range from low to medium. The direction of the view ranges and susceptibility is considered to be low as result of existing views containing power related

structures such as the existing Connah's Quary Power Station and pylons. Overall sensitivity is considered to be low. Views of the Proposed Development would range from clear and open to restricted by intervening vegetation or built form. Where views in proximity to the Main Development Area are available, they would be partially screened by vegetation and built form. The magnitude of visual effects is therefore predicted to be low at all assessment scenarios. Their significance would be minor adverse (not significant), and their duration would range between medium to long term and reversible.

Visual Plumes

15.6.30 As discussed in **Appendix 8D: Air Quality Operational Assessment (EN010166/APP/6.4)**, the assumed release temperature of the Unabated Front End Engineering Design (FEED) 1 and Unabated FEED 2 scenarios would be greater than the Abated FEED 1 and Abated FEED 2 scenarios, resulting in an overall less visible plume.

15.6.31 The plume assessment undertaken in **Appendix 8D: Air Quality Operational Assessment (EN010166/APP/6.4)** does not consider visibility in terms of human perception, but in terms of whether water contained in the plume would be at conditions that would result in the water being droplets of water or the water being present as a gas. Water droplets may be visible to human perception if present at high enough densities, but as plume become sufficiently dispersed the plume of droplets is too widely spaced to be visible or to cast shadows. The plume assessment does not consider visibility in the context of day-time and night-time, nor does it consider climatic conditions such as the plume being located within naturally occurring clouds or fog. Therefore, the maximum predicted visibility time duration may be less in terms of actual visibility if it coincides with periods of reduced visibility (i.e., night-time or climatic conditions).

15.6.32 For the Abated FEED 1 scenario, the average plume length would be 26 m or less, predicted to be visible for up to 31.7% of the time (and therefore not visible for a minimum of 68.3% of the time), reducing to approximately 5% of the time for a plume over 100 m.

15.6.33 For the Abated FEED 2 scenario, the average plume length would be 63.4 m or less, predicted to be visible for up to 69% of the time (and therefore not visible for a minimum of 31% of the time), reducing to approximately 17.4% of the time for a plume over 100 m.

15.6.34 For the Unabated FEED 1 scenario, the average plume length would be 4.2 m or less, predicted to be visible for up to 4.5% of the time (and therefore not visible for a minimum of 95.5% of the time), reducing to approximately 1.4% of the time for a plume over 100 m.

15.6.35 For the Unabated FEED 2 scenario, the average plume length would be 16 m or less, predicted to be visible for up to 14.2% of the time (and therefore not visible for a minimum of 85.8% of the time), reducing to approximately 5% of the time for a plume over 100 m.

15.6.36 The reported longest 'visible' plume lengths are based on the physical properties of water at the plume centre line, i.e if the water is present at conditions that would result in droplet formation. At distances beyond a few

hundred metres the water droplets would be too dispersed for the plume to be visible to the eye.

15.6.37 The identified visual plumes have been considered within the assessment undertaken in **Appendix 15-D: Landscape Impact Assessment (EN010166/APP/6.4)**and **Appendix 15-E: Visual Impact Assessment (EN010166/APP/6.4)** when determining the size/ scale, duration, and reversibility of impact at operation for relevant receptors.

15.6.38 A summary of visual effects for all viewpoints is set out in **Table 15-8** overleaf.

Table 15-8: Significance of Visual Amenity Effects in potential viewpoints

VP No:	Location	Receptor type	Significance of effect - Construction	Significance of effect - Operation
1	Thurstaston Common, Thurstaston, Wirral	Recreational	Negligible adverse (not significant)	Negligible adverse (not significant)
2	Wirral Country Park, Caldy, Wirral	Recreational	Negligible adverse (not significant)	Negligible adverse (not significant)
3	Marine Drive, Heswall, Wirral	Residential	Minor adverse (not significant)	Minor adverse (not significant)
4	The Parade, Parkgate, Neston, Cheshire West & Chester	Residential, employment, road users	Minor adverse (not significant)	Minor adverse (not significant)
5	Neston Road, Neston, Chesire West & Chester	Residential, road users	Minor adverse (not significant)	Minor adverse (not significant)
6	Windmill, Halkyn, Pentre Halkyn, Flintshire, Wales	Residential, recreational, road users	Minor adverse (not significant)	Minor adverse (not significant)
7	Bagillt, Deebank, North-west of Flint Castle, Flintshire	Recreational	Negligible adverse (not significant)	Negligible adverse (not significant)
8	Flint Castle, Castle Dyke Street, Flint, Flintshire	Visitors to heritage asset	Moderate adverse (significant)	Moderate adverse (significant)
9	Chester Road, Oakenholt, Flint, Flintshire	Residential, recreational road users	Moderate adverse (significant)	Moderate adverse (significant)
10	Kelsterton Road, Rockcliffe, Connah's Quay, Flintshire	Residential, road users	Major adverse (significant)	Major adverse (significant)

VP No:	Location	Receptor type	Significance of effect - Construction	Significance of effect - Operation
11	Kelsterton Cemetery, Memorial Garden, Rockcliffe, Connah's Quay, Flintshire	Cemetery visitors	Moderate adverse (significant)	Moderate adverse (significant)
12	York Road, Golftyn, Connah's Quay, Flintshire	Residential, road users, recreational	Minor adverse (not significant)	Minor adverse (not significant)
13	NCR 568 Sealand, Flintshire	Recreational	Minor adverse (not significant)	Minor adverse (not significant)
14	RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands, Cheshire West & Chester	Recreational	Minor adverse (not significant)	Minor adverse (not significant)
15	Moel Famau, Jubilee Tower, Offa's Dyke Way, Llangynhafal, Denbighshire	Recreational	Minor adverse (not significant)	Minor adverse (not significant)

Decommissioning Phase

~~15.6.30~~15.6.39 The Proposed Development would have a design life of approximately 30 years. The impacts on landscape character and visual amenity arising as a result of decommissioning of the Proposed Development are considered (using professional judgement) to be similar to those identified at the construction stage of the Proposed Development. For landscape this is as a result of the scale and nature of the development in relation to the existing industrial structures and complexes present in the wider landscape and the large scale of the landscape character areas. For visual amenity this is as a result of the visibility of decommissioning and demolition activities being of a similar nature to construction.

15.7 Additional Mitigation and Enhancement Measures

15.7.1 Significant adverse visual amenity effects have been assessed for the following viewpoints during construction, operation, and decommissioning assessment scenarios:

- Viewpoint 8 (Flint Castle, Castle Dyke Street, Flint, Flintshire);
- Viewpoint 9 (Chester Road, Oakenholt, Flint, Flintshire);
- Viewpoint 10 (Kelsterton Road, Rockcliffe, Connah's Quay, Flintshire); and
- Viewpoint 11 (Kelsterton Cemetery, Memorial Garden, Rockcliffe, Connah's Quay, Flintshire).

15.7.2 The opportunity for mitigation of the visual effects of the Proposed Development is limited due to the size and scale of the Proposed Development. Paragraphs 2.5.3 and 2.5.4 of NPS EN-2 (Ref 15-5) states that "*It is not possible to eliminate the visual and landscape impacts associated with a natural gas electricity generating station. Mitigation* should be implemented *to reduce the visual intrusion of the buildings in the landscape and minimise impact on visual amenity as far as reasonably practicable"*.

15.7.3 No potential additional mitigation has been identified for a number of dynamic or transient views from the Dee Estuary and users of the NCR 5 and the PRoW on the north bank of the River Dee, similar to the views illustrated in Viewpoint 8 for example. It is considered that the addition of landscape features such as groups of trees or woodland within the Order limits would not be effective in reducing these effects on visual amenity. Visual effects in these views would be **moderate adverse** and therefore **significant** during all assessment scenarios.

15.7.4 No potential additional mitigation has been identified for Viewpoints 10 and 11 and dynamic views due to the proximity to the Main Development Area and the scale of the structures. It is considered that the addition of landscape features such as groups of trees or woodland would not be effective in reducing these effects on visual amenity. Visual effects in these views would be **major adverse** (Viewpoint 10) and **moderate adverse** (Viewpoint 11) and therefore **significant** during all assessment scenarios.

15.8 Summary of Residual Effects

15.8.1 **Table 15-9** to **Table 15-11** summarise the residual effects of the Proposed Development on Landscape and Visual Amenity and receptors following implementation of additional mitigation. The impacts on landscape character and visual amenity arising as a result of the decommissioning of the Proposed Development would be similar in scale and activity to construction but would be shorter in duration.

Table 15-9: Summary of Likely Significant Landscape and Visual Residual Effects (Construction)

Receptor	Sensitivity	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact Prior to Additional Mitigation	Classification of Effect (prior to Additional Mitigation)	Additional Mitigation / Enhancement Measure	Magnitude of Impact After Additional Mitigation	Residual Effect After Additional Mitigation
NLCA 13 - Glannau Dyfrdwy a Wrecsam /Deeside and Wrexham	Medium	Impact on landscape character during construction activities	Very low	Negligible (not significant)	N/A	Very low	Negligible (not significant)
NCA 59: Wirral	Medium	Impact on landscape character during construction activities	Very Low	Negligible (not significant)	N/A	Very Low	Negligible (not significant)
MCA 36 – Dee and Mersey Estuaries and Coastal Waters Marine Management Organisation (MMO)	Medium	Impact on landscape character during construction activities	Very low	Negligible (not significant)	N/A	Very low	Negligible (not significant)
MCA 01 – Dee Estuary (Wales)	Medium	Impact on landscape character during construction activities	Low	Minor adverse (not significant)	N/A	Low	Minor adverse (not significant)

Receptor	Sensitivity	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact Prior to Additional Mitigation	Classification of Effect (prior to Additional Mitigation)	Additional Mitigation / Enhancement Measure	Magnitude of Impact After Additional Mitigation	Residual Effect After Additional Mitigation
Area 2 - Dee Coastal Area (ASCV)	Medium	Impact on landscape character during construction activities	Very low	Negligible (not significant)	N/A	Very low	Negligible (not significant)
LCA 1b: Dee Estuarine Edge	Medium	Impact on landscape character during construction activities	Low	Minor adverse (not significant)	N/A	Low	Minor adverse (not significant)
LCA 3c: Irby and Pensby Sandstone Hills	Medium	Impact on landscape character during construction activities	Low	Minor adverse (not significant)	N/A	Low	Minor adverse (not significant)
LCA 3d: Heswall Dales Sandstone Hills	Medium	Impact on landscape character during construction activities	Very Low	Negligible (not significant)	N/A	Very Low	Negligible (not significant)
LCA 6a: Dee Estuary	Medium	Impact on landscape character during construction activities	Very low	Negligible (not significant)	N/A	Very low	Negligible (not significant)
LCA4d: Burton and Shotwich	Low	Impact on landscape character during construction activities	Very Low	Negligible (not significant)	N/A	Very Low	Negligible (not significant)
LCA 6a: Willaston	Medium	Impact on landscape character during construction activities	Very Low	Negligible (not significant)	N/A	Very Low	Negligible (not significant)

Receptor	Sensitivity	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact Prior to Additional Mitigation	Classification of Effect (prior to Additional Mitigation)	Additional Mitigation / Enhancement Measure	Magnitude of Impact After Additional Mitigation	Residual Effect After Additional Mitigation
LCA 6b: Neston	Medium	Impact on landscape character during construction activities	Low	Minor adverse (not significant)	N/A	Low	Minor adverse (not significant)
LCA 6c: Neston to Saughall	Medium	Impact on landscape character during construction activities	Low	Minor adverse (not significant)	N/A	Low	Minor adverse (not significant)
LCA 6d: Ness, Burton, Puddington and Shotwick Slopes	Medium	Impact on landscape character during construction activities	Low	Minor adverse (not significant)	N/A	Low	Minor adverse (not significant)
LCA 6e: Capenhurst Plateau	Low	No Impact	No impact	No effect	N/A	No impact	No effect
LCA 9d: Saughall to Waverton Plain	Low	Impact on landscape character during construction activities	Very low	Negligible (not significant)	N/A	Very low	Negligible (not significant)
LCA 16b: Dee Estuary Banks	Medium	Impact on landscape character during construction activities	Low	Minor adverse (not significant)	N/A	Low	Minor adverse (not significant)
Built Land	Low	Impact on landscape character during construction activities	Very low	Negligible (not significant)	N/A	Very low	Negligible (not significant)

Receptor	Sensitivity	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact Prior to Additional Mitigation	Classification of Effect (prior to Additional Mitigation)	Additional Mitigation / Enhancement Measure	Magnitude of Impact After Additional Mitigation	Residual Effect After Additional Mitigation
Coastal Intertidal Marsh	High	Impact on landscape character during construction activities	Very low	Minor adverse (not significant)	N/A	Very low	Minor adverse (not significant)
Lowland	Medium	Impact on landscape character during construction activities	Low	Minor adverse (not significant)	N/A	Low	Minor adverse (not significant)
Mosaic Rolling Lowland	Medium	Impact on landscape character during construction activities	Very low	Negligible (not significant)	N/A	Very low	Negligible (not significant)
Upland	High	Impact on landscape character during construction activities	Very low	Minor adverse (not significant)	N/A	Very low	Minor adverse (not significant)
Clwydian Range and Dee Valley	High	No impact	No impact	No effect	N/A	No impact	No effect
Viewpoint 1	Medium	Impact on visual amenity to recreational receptors during construction activities	Very low	Negligible (not significant)	N/A	Very low	Negligible (not significant)
Viewpoint 2	Medium	Impact on visual amenity to recreational receptors during construction activities	Very low	Negligible (not significant)	N/A	Very low	Negligible (not significant)

Receptor	Sensitivity	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact Prior to Additional Mitigation	Classification of Effect (prior to Additional Mitigation)	Additional Mitigation / Enhancement Measure	Magnitude of Impact After Additional Mitigation	Residual Effect After Additional Mitigation
Viewpoint 3	High	Impact on visual amenity to residential receptors during construction activities	Very low	Minor adverse (not significant)	N/A	Very low	Minor adverse (not significant)
Viewpoint 4	High	Impact on visual amenity to residential employment and road users receptors during construction activities	Low	Minor adverse (not significant)	N/A	Low	Minor adverse (not significant)
Viewpoint 5	Medium	Impact on visual amenity to residential and road users receptors during construction activities	Low	Minor adverse (not significant)	N/A	Low	Minor adverse (not significant)
Viewpoint 6	High	Impact on visual amenity to residential, recreational and road users receptors during construction activities	Very low	Minor adverse (not significant)	N/A	Very low	Minor adverse (not significant)
Viewpoint 7	Medium	Impact on visual amenity to recreational receptors during construction activities	Very low	Negligible (not significant)	N/A	Very low	Negligible (not significant)

Receptor	Sensitivity	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact Prior to Additional Mitigation	Classification of Effect (prior to Additional Mitigation)	Additional Mitigation / Enhancement Measure	Magnitude of Impact After Additional Mitigation	Residual Effect After Additional Mitigation
Viewpoint 8	High	Impact on visual amenity to visitors to heritage asset during construction activities	Medium	Moderate adverse (significant)	None	Medium	Moderate adverse (significant)
Viewpoint 9	Medium	Impact on visual amenity to residential, recreational and road users during construction activities	Medium	Moderate adverse (significant)	None	Medium	Moderate adverse (significant)
Viewpoint 10	Medium	Impact on visual amenity to residential and road users receptors during construction activities	High	Major adverse (significant)	None	High	Major adverse (significant)
Viewpoint 11	Medium	Impact on visual amenity to cemetery visitors during construction activities	Medium	Moderate adverse (significant)	None	Medium	Moderate adverse (significant)
Viewpoint 12	Medium	Impact on visual amenity to residential, recreational and road users receptors during construction activities	Low	Minor adverse (not significant)	N/A	Low	Minor adverse (not significant)

Receptor	Sensitivity	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact Prior to Additional Mitigation	Classification of Effect (prior to Additional Mitigation)	Additional Mitigation / Enhancement Measure	Magnitude of Impact After Additional Mitigation	Residual Effect After Additional Mitigation
Viewpoint 13	Medium	Impact on visual amenity to recreational receptors during construction activities	Low	Minor adverse (not significant)	N/A	Low	Minor adverse (not significant)
Viewpoint 14	Medium	Impact on visual amenity to recreational receptors during construction activities	Low	Minor adverse (not significant)	N/A	Low	Minor adverse (not significant)
Viewpoint 15	High	Impact on visual amenity to recreational receptors during construction activities	Very low	Minor adverse (not significant)	N/A	Very low	Minor adverse (not significant)
Dynamic views in close proximity to the Proposed Development including Dee Estuary, NCR 5, and PRoW on the north bank of the River Dee	Medium	Impact on visual amenity of receptors involved in an activity that includes the enjoyment of available views during construction activities	Medium	Moderate adverse (significant)	None	Medium	Moderate adverse (significant)

Table 15-10: Summary of Likely Significant Landscape and Visual Residual Effects (Operation)

Receptor	Sensitivity (value)	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact Prior to Additional Mitigation	Classification of Effect (prior to Additional Mitigation)	Additional Mitigation / Enhancement Measure	Magnitude of Impact After Additional Mitigation	Residual Effect After Additional Mitigation
NLCA 13 - Glannau Dyfrdwy a Wrecsam /Deeside and Wrexham	Medium	Impact on landscape character	Very low	Negligible (not significant)	N/A	Very low	Negligible (not significant)
NCA 59: Wirral	Medium	Impact on landscape character	Very Low	Negligible (not significant)	N/A	Very Low	Negligible (not significant)
MCA 36 – Dee and Mersey Estuaries and Coastal Waters Marine Management Organisation (MMO)	Medium	Impact on landscape character	Very low	Negligible (not significant)	N/A	Very low	Negligible (not significant)
MCA 01 – Dee Estuary (Wales)	Medium	Impact on landscape character	Low	Minor adverse (not significant)	N/A	Low	Minor adverse (not significant)
Area 2 - Dee Coastal Area (ASCV)	Medium	Impact on landscape character	Very low	Negligible (not significant)	N/A	Very low	Negligible (not significant)

Receptor	Sensitivity (value)	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact Prior to Additional Mitigation	Classification of Effect (prior to Additional Mitigation)	Additional Mitigation / Enhancement Measure	Magnitude of Impact After Additional Mitigation	Residual Effect After Additional Mitigation
LCA 1b: Dee Estuarine Edge	Medium	Impact on landscape character	Low	Minor adverse (not significant)	N/A	Low	Minor adverse (not significant)
LCA 3c: Irby and Pensby Sandstone Hills	Medium	Impact on landscape character	Low	Minor adverse (not significant)	N/A	Low	Minor adverse (not significant)
LCA 3d: Heswall Dales Sandstone Hills	Medium	Impact on landscape character	Very Low	Negligible (not significant)	N/A	Very Low	Negligible (not significant)
LCA 6a: Dee Estuary	Medium	Impact on landscape character	Very low	Negligible (not significant)	N/A	Very low	Negligible (not significant)
LCA4d: Burton and Shotwich	Low	Impact on landscape character	Very Low	Negligible (not significant)	N/A	Very Low	Negligible (not significant)
LCA 6a: Willaston	Medium	Impact on landscape character	Very Low	Negligible (not significant)	N/A	Very Low	Negligible (not significant)
LCA 6b: Neston	Medium	Impact on landscape character	Low	Minor adverse (not significant)	N/A	Low	Minor adverse (not significant)

Receptor	Sensitivity (value)	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact Prior to Additional Mitigation	Classification of Effect (prior to Additional Mitigation)	Additional Mitigation / Enhancement Measure	Magnitude of Impact After Additional Mitigation	Residual Effect After Additional Mitigation
LCA 6c: Neston to Saughall	Medium	Impact on landscape character	Low	Minor adverse (not significant)	N/A	Low	Minor adverse (not significant)
LCA 6d: Ness, Burton, Puddington and Shotwick Slopes	Medium	Impact on landscape character	Low	Minor adverse (not significant)	N/A	Low	Minor adverse (not significant)
LCA 6e: Capenhurst Plateau	Low	No Impact	No impact	No effect	N/A	No impact	No effect
LCA 9d: Saughall to Waverton Plain	Low	Impact on landscape character	Very low	Negligible (not significant)	N/A	Very low	Negligible (not significant)
LCA 16b: Dee Estuary Banks	Medium	Impact on landscape character	Low	Minor adverse (not significant)	N/A	Low	Minor adverse (not significant)
Built Land	Low	Impact on landscape character	Very low	Negligible (not significant)	N/A	Very low	Negligible (not significant)
Coastal Intertidal Marsh	High	Impact on landscape character	Very low	Minor adverse (not significant)	N/A	Very low	Minor adverse (not significant)

Receptor	Sensitivity (value)	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact Prior to Additional Mitigation	Classification of Effect (prior to Additional Mitigation)	Additional Mitigation / Enhancement Measure	Magnitude of Impact After Additional Mitigation	Residual Effect After Additional Mitigation
Lowland	Medium	Impact on landscape character	Low	Minor adverse (not significant)	N/A	Low	Minor adverse (not significant)
Mosaic Rolling Lowland	Medium	Impact on landscape character	Low	Negligible (not significant)	N/A	Low	Minor adverse (not significant)
Upland	High	Impact on landscape character	Very low	Minor adverse (not significant)	N/A	Very low	Minor adverse (not significant)
Clwydian Range and Dee Valley	High	No impact	No impact	No effect	N/A	No impact	No effect
Viewpoint 1	Medium	Impact on visual amenity to recreational receptors	Very low	Negligible (not significant)	N/A	Very low	Negligible (not significant)
Viewpoint 2	Medium	Impact on visual amenity to recreational receptors	Very low	Negligible (not significant)	N/A	Very low	Negligible (not significant)
Viewpoint 3	High	Impact on visual amenity to residential receptors	Low	Minor adverse (not significant)	N/A	Low	Minor adverse (not significant)
Viewpoint 4	High	Impact on visual amenity to residential and employment	Low	Minor adverse (not significant)	N/A	Low	Minor adverse (not significant)

Receptor	Sensitivity (value)	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact Prior to Additional Mitigation	Classification of Effect (prior to Additional Mitigation)	Additional Mitigation / Enhancement Measure	Magnitude of Impact After Additional Mitigation	Residual Effect After Additional Mitigation
		receptors, and road users					
Viewpoint 5	Medium	Impact on visual amenity to residential receptors and road users	Low	Minor adverse (not significant)	N/A	Low	Minor adverse (not significant)
Viewpoint 6	High	Impact on visual amenity to residential receptors, recreational and road users	Very low	Minor adverse (not significant)	N/A	Very low	Minor adverse (not significant)
Viewpoint 7	Medium	Impact on visual amenity to recreational receptors	Very low	Negligible (not significant)	N/A	Very low	Negligible (not significant)
Viewpoint 8	High	Impact on visual amenity to visitors to heritage assets	Medium	Moderate adverse (significant)	None	Medium	Moderate adverse (significant)
Viewpoint 9	Medium	Impact on visual amenity to visitors, residential receptors, recreational and road users	Medium	Moderate adverse (significant)	None	Medium	Moderate adverse (significant)
Viewpoint 10	Medium	Impact on visual amenity to residential	High	Major adverse (significant)	None	High	Major adverse (significant)

Receptor	Sensitivity (value)	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact Prior to Additional Mitigation	Classification of Effect (prior to Additional Mitigation)	Additional Mitigation / Enhancement Measure	Magnitude of Impact After Additional Mitigation	Residual Effect After Additional Mitigation
		receptors, and road users					
Viewpoint 11	Medium	Impact on visual amenity to cemetery visitors	Medium	Moderate adverse (significant)	None	Medium	Moderate adverse (significant)
Viewpoint 12	Medium	Impact on visual amenity to residential receptors, road users and recreational receptors	Low	Minor adverse (not significant)	N/A	Low	Minor adverse (not significant)
Viewpoint 13	Medium	Impact on visual amenity to recreational receptors	Low	Minor adverse (not significant)	N/A	Low	Minor adverse (not significant)
Viewpoint 14	Medium	Impact on visual amenity to recreational receptors	Low	Minor adverse (not significant)	N/A	Low	Minor adverse (not significant)
Viewpoint 15	High	Impact on visual amenity to recreational receptors	Very low	Minor adverse (not significant)	N/A	Very low	Minor adverse (not significant)
Dynamic views in close proximity to the Proposed Development	Medium	Impact on visual amenity of receptors involved in an activity that includes the	Medium	Moderate adverse (significant)	None	Medium	Moderate adverse (significant)

Receptor	Sensitivity (value)	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact Prior to Additional Mitigation	Classification of Effect (prior to Additional Mitigation)	Additional Mitigation / Enhancement Measure	Magnitude of Impact After Additional Mitigation	Residual Effect After Additional Mitigation
including Dee Estuary, NCR 5, and PRoW on the north bank of the River Dee		enjoyment of available views.					

Table 15-11: Summary of Likely Significant Landscape and Visual Residual Effects (Decommissioning)

Receptor	Sensitivity	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact Prior to Additional Mitigation	Classification of Effect (prior to Additional Mitigation)	Additional Mitigation / Enhancement Measure	Magnitude of Impact After Additional Mitigation	Residual Effect After Additional Mitigation
NLCA 13 - Glannau Dyfrdwy a Wrecsam /Deeside and Wrexham	Medium	Impact on landscape character	Very low	Negligible (not significant)	N/A	Very low	Negligible (not significant)
NCA 59: Wirral	Medium	Impact on landscape character	Very Low	Negligible (not significant)	N/A	Very Low	Negligible (not significant)
MCA 36 – Dee and	Medium	Impact on landscape character	Very low	Negligible (not significant)	N/A	Very low	Negligible (not significant)

Receptor	Sensitivity	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact Prior to Additional Mitigation	Classification of Effect (prior to Additional Mitigation)	Additional Mitigation / Enhancement Measure	Magnitude of Impact After Additional Mitigation	Residual Effect After Additional Mitigation
Mersey Estuaries and Coastal Waters Marine Management Organisation (MMO)							
MCA 01 – Dee Estuary (Wales)	Medium	Impact on landscape character	Low	Minor adverse (not significant)	N/A	Low	Minor adverse (not significant)
Area 2 - Dee Coastal Area (ASCV)	Medium	Impact on landscape character	Very low	Negligible (not significant)	N/A	Very low	Negligible (not significant)
LCA 1b: Dee Estuarine Edge	Medium	Impact on landscape character	Low	Minor adverse (not significant)	N/A	Low	Minor adverse (not significant)
LCA 3c: Irby and Pensby Sandstone Hills	Medium	Impact on landscape character	Low	Minor adverse (not significant)	N/A	Low	Minor adverse (not significant)
LCA 3d: Heswall	Medium	Impact on landscape character	Very Low	Negligible (not significant)	N/A	Very Low	Negligible (not significant)

Receptor	Sensitivity	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact Prior to Additional Mitigation	Classification of Effect (prior to Additional Mitigation)	Additional Mitigation / Enhancement Measure	Magnitude of Impact After Additional Mitigation	Residual Effect After Additional Mitigation
Dales Sandstone Hills							
LCA 6a: Dee Estuary	Medium	Impact on landscape character	Very low	Negligible (not significant)	N/A	Very low	Negligible (not significant)
LCA4d: Burton and Shotwich	Low	Impact on landscape character	Very Low	Negligible (not significant)	N/A	Very Low	Negligible (not significant)
LCA 6a: Willaston	Medium	Impact on landscape character	Very Low	Negligible (not significant)	N/A	Very Low	Negligible (not significant)
LCA 6b: Neston	Medium	Impact on landscape character	Low	Minor adverse (not significant)	N/A	Low	Minor adverse (not significant)
LCA 6c: Neston to Saughall	Medium	Impact on landscape character	Low	Minor adverse (not significant)	N/A	Low	Minor adverse (not significant)
LCA 6d: Ness, Burton, Puddington and Shotwick Slopes	Medium	Impact on landscape character	Low	Minor adverse (not significant)	N/A	Low	Minor adverse (not significant)

Receptor	Sensitivity	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact Prior to Additional Mitigation	Classification of Effect (prior to Additional Mitigation)	Additional Mitigation / Enhancement Measure	Magnitude of Impact After Additional Mitigation	Residual Effect After Additional Mitigation
LCA 6e: Capenhurst Plateau	Low	No Impact	No impact	No effect	N/A	No impact	No effect
LCA 9d: Saughall to Waverton Plain	Low	Impact on landscape character	Very low	Negligible (not significant)	N/A	Very low	Negligible (not significant)
LCA 16b: Dee Estuary Banks	Medium	Impact on landscape character	Low	Minor adverse (not significant)	N/A	Low	Minor adverse (not significant)
Built Land	Low	Impact on landscape character	Very low	Negligible (not significant)	N/A	Very low	Negligible (not significant)
Coastal Intertidal Marsh	High	Impact on landscape character	Very low	Minor adverse (not significant)	N/A	Very low	Minor adverse (not significant)
Lowland	Medium	Impact on landscape character	Low	Minor adverse (not significant)	N/A	Low	Minor adverse (not significant)
Mosaic Rolling Lowland	Medium	Impact on landscape character	Very low	Negligible (not significant)	N/A	Very low	Negligible (not significant)
Upland	High	Impact on landscape character	Very low	Minor adverse (not significant)	N/A	Very low	Minor adverse (not significant)

Receptor	Sensitivity	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact Prior to Additional Mitigation	Classification of Effect (prior to Additional Mitigation)	Additional Mitigation / Enhancement Measure	Magnitude of Impact After Additional Mitigation	Residual Effect After Additional Mitigation
Clwydian Range and Dee Valley	High	No impact	No impact	No effect	N/A	No impact	No effect
Viewpoint 1	Medium	Impact on visual amenity to recreational receptors	Very low	Negligible (not significant)	N/A	Very low	Negligible (not significant)
Viewpoint 2	Medium	Impact on visual amenity to recreational receptors	Very low	Negligible (not significant)	N/A	Very low	Negligible (not significant)
Viewpoint 3	High	Impact on visual amenity to residential receptors	Very low	Minor adverse (not significant)	N/A	Very low	Minor adverse (not significant)
Viewpoint 4	High	Impact on visual amenity to residential and employment receptors, and road users	Low	Minor adverse (not significant)	N/A	Low	Minor adverse (not significant)
Viewpoint 5	Medium	Impact on visual amenity to residential receptors, and road users	Low	Minor adverse (not significant)	N/A	Low	Minor adverse (not significant)

Receptor	Sensitivity	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact Prior to Additional Mitigation	Classification of Effect (prior to Additional Mitigation)	Additional Mitigation / Enhancement Measure	Magnitude of Impact After Additional Mitigation	Residual Effect After Additional Mitigation
Viewpoint 6	High	Impact on visual amenity to residential receptors, recreational and road users	Very low	Minor adverse (not significant)	N/A	Very low	Minor adverse (not significant)
Viewpoint 7	Medium	Impact on visual amenity to recreational receptors	Very low	Negligible (not significant)	N/A	Very low	Negligible (not significant)
Viewpoint 8	High	Impact on visual amenity to visitors to heritage assets	Medium	Moderate adverse (significant)	None	Medium	Moderate adverse (significant)
Viewpoint 9	Medium	Impact on visual amenity to residential receptors, recreational and road users	Medium	Moderate adverse (significant)	None	Medium	Moderate adverse (significant)
Viewpoint 10	Medium	Impact on visual amenity to residential receptors, and road users	High	Major adverse (significant)	None	High	Major adverse (significant)

Receptor	Sensitivity	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact Prior to Additional Mitigation	Classification of Effect (prior to Additional Mitigation)	Additional Mitigation / Enhancement Measure	Magnitude of Impact After Additional Mitigation	Residual Effect After Additional Mitigation
Viewpoint 11	Medium	Impact on visual amenity to cemetery visitors	Medium	Moderate adverse (significant)	None	Medium	Moderate adverse (significant)
Viewpoint 12	Medium	Impact on visual amenity to residential receptors, recreational and road users	Low	Minor adverse (not significant)	N/A	Low	Minor adverse (not significant)
Viewpoint 13	Medium	Impact on visual amenity to recreational receptors	Low	Minor adverse (not significant)	N/A	Low	Minor adverse (not significant)
Viewpoint 14	Medium	Impact on visual amenity to recreational receptors	Low	Minor adverse (not significant)	N/A	Low	Minor adverse (not significant)
Viewpoint 15	High	Impact on visual amenity to recreational receptors	Very low	Minor adverse (not significant)	N/A	Very low	Minor adverse (not significant)

Receptor	Sensitivity	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact Prior to Additional Mitigation	Classification of Effect (prior to Additional Mitigation)	Additional Mitigation / Enhancement Measure	Magnitude of Impact After Additional Mitigation	Residual Effect After Additional Mitigation
Dynamic views in close proximity to the Proposed Development including Dee Estuary, NCR 5, and PRoW on the north bank of the River Dee	Medium	Impact on visual amenity of receptors involved in an activity that includes the enjoyment of available views	Medium	Moderate adverse (significant)	None	Medium	Moderate adverse (significant)

References

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Ref 15-2 The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (SI 2017/572). London: HMSO. Available online: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2017/572/contents (Accessed 31/07/2025).

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Ref 15-4 Department for Energy Security & Net Zero, 2023; Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1). Available online: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/65a7864e96a5ec0013731a93/overarching-nps-for-energy-en1.pdf (Accessed 31/07/2025).

Ref 15-5 Department for Energy Security & Net Zero, 2023; National Policy Statement for Natural Gas Electricity Generating Infrastructure (EN-2). Available online: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/655dc15a544aea000dfb3239/nps-natural-gas-electricitygenerating-infrastructure-en2.pdf (Accessed 31/07/2025).

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