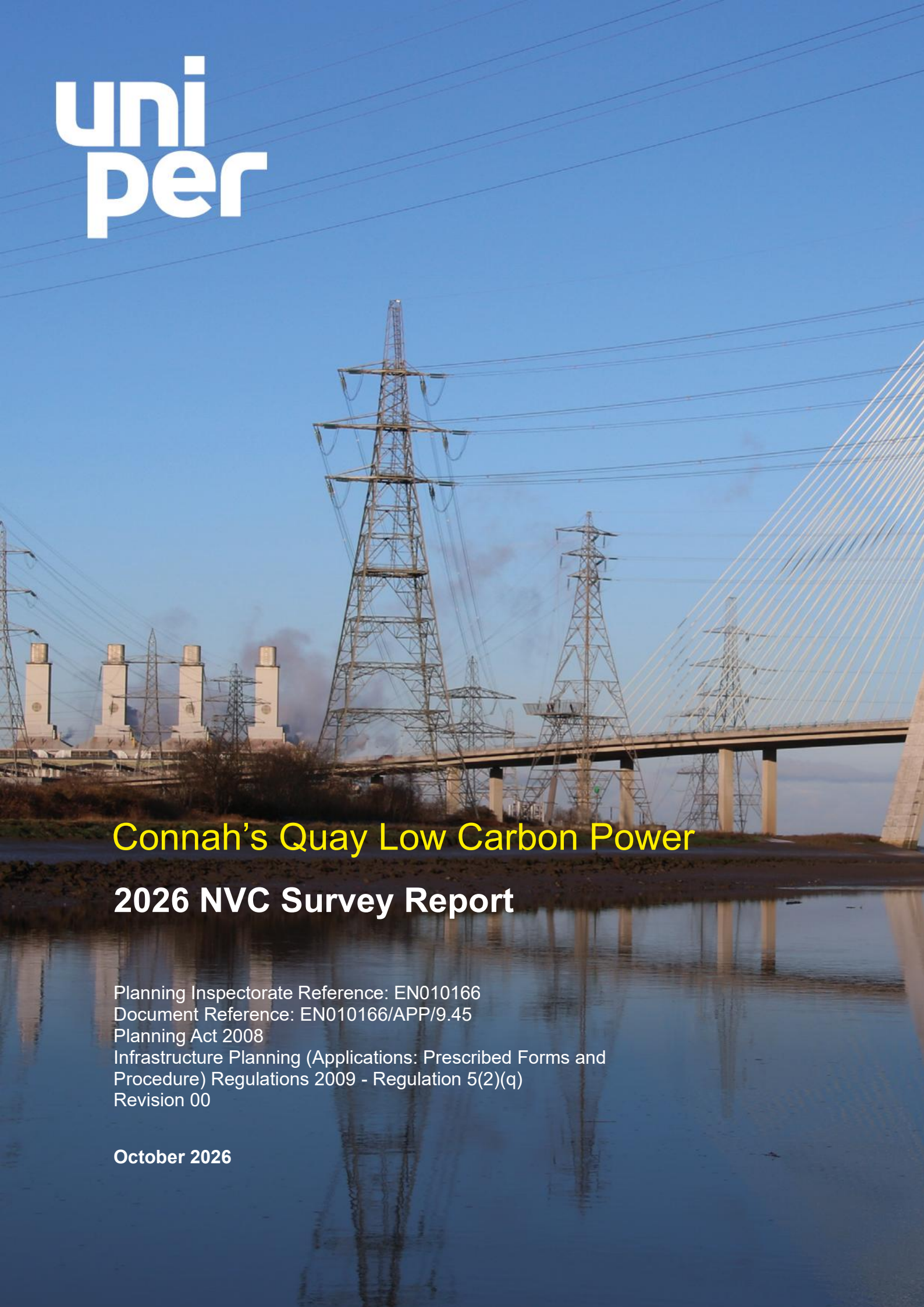


Connah's Quay Low Carbon Power

2026 NVC Survey Report

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1. Introduction

1.1 Background

1.1.1 An NVC survey was completed in 2024, as reported in the Connah's Quay Low Carbon Power Botanical Baseline Survey and Information Report (**Appendix 11C: Botanical Technical Appendix (EN010166/APP/6.4)**). The current survey revisited this area to identify any changes in the vegetation and extended the NVC survey into adjacent areas that had not previously been assessed. The Applicant committed to undertaking an updated NVC survey in 2026 to support design development and confirm the extent of saltmarsh within the Surface Water Outfall Area.

1.1.2 This report focuses on the Surface Water Outfall Area. This area is shown on **Figure 3-3: Areas Described in the Environmental Statement (EN010166/APP/6.3)** sheet 7 and Plate 3-2 of **Chapter 3: Description of the Existing Environment (EN010166/APP/6.2.3)**.

1.1.3 Habitats within the Surface Water Outfall Area are mapped as Saltmarsh Habitat of Principal Importance under Section 7 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016[1].

1.1.4 This report presents the method and results of the NVC survey completed in August 2026.

1.2 Surface Water Outfall Area Description

1.2.1 The Surface Water Outfall Area comprises a small area of saltmarsh immediately north of the existing Connah's Quay Power Station, within the wider estuarine habitat associated with the Dee Estuary/Aber Dyfrdwy Special Area of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Area (SPA), Ramsar site and Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). The vegetation within the Surface Water Outfall Area comprises tall grass-dominated vegetation together with a culvert and associated channel.

1.3 Survey Area

1.3.1 The NVC survey covered the Surface Water Outfall Area and a 30 m buffer around it (the Survey Area). This included some of the saltmarsh communities previously surveyed and described in the Connah's Quay Low Carbon Power Botanical Baseline Survey and Information Report[2], together with adjacent areas that had not previously been assessed. The areas and/or central location of each habitat sampled are shown on **Figure 1** in **Appendix A**.

1.4 Objectives

1.4.1 The objectives of the survey were to:

- identify the NVC plant communities present within the Survey Area;

[1] Natural Resources Wales (2024) Environment (Wales) Act Section 7 Terrestrial Habitats of Principal Importance. DataMap Wales. Available at: https://datamap.gov.wales. [Accessed 19 September 2026]

- Assess the distribution and botanical composition of those plant communities;
- Confirm the extent of saltmarsh within the Surface Water Outfall Area; and,
- Identify whether the habitats surveyed correspond with habitats of principal importance under Section 7 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016[1].

2. Legislation and Policy

2.1 Relevant Legislation, Policy and Guidance

2.1.1 The status of the plant communities and plant species recorded within the Survey Area has been determined to identify any species or habitats protected by European or UK legislation or under Welsh planning policy, including:

- Wildlife and Countryside Act (WCA) 1981 (as amended)[2];
- The Conservation of Habitats and Species 2017 (as amended)[3];
- Countryside and Rights of Way (CRoW) Act 2000[4];
- Environment (Wales) Act 2016[5]; and,
- Planning Policy Wales (PPW)[6].

2.1.2 Records of notable and priority plant species were also made including any in the following categories:

- A New Vascular Plant Data Red List for Great Britain (2025)[7];
- A Vascular Plant Red Data List for Wales (2008)[8]; and,
- Section 7 list of Habitats and Species of Principal Importance for Conservation in Wales (2026)[1].

2.1.3 The following local biodiversity resource was also consulted:

- Flintshire County Council (2025). Flintshire's Action Plan for Nature: Our Plan of Action for Biodiversity in Flintshire 2025–2030[9]; and,
- Common Standards Monitoring (CSM) Guidance for Saltmarsh Habitats (2004)[10].

2.1.4 Please refer to original source documents for full details.

2.2 Good Practice

2.2.1 Current guidance stresses the need for developers to maintain protected species and habitats within their current range at a favourable status. To achieve this, developers are often required to include mitigation strategies

[2] UK Government (1981). Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (c. 69), as amended. Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1981/69/contents [Accessed 15 September 2026].
[3] UK Government (2017). The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (SI 2017/1012), as amended. Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2017/1012/contents [Accessed 15 September 2026].
[4] UK Government (2000). Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (c. 37), as amended. Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/37/contents [Accessed 15 September 2026].
[5] Welsh Government (2016). Environment (Wales) Act 2016. Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/anaw/2016/3/contents [Accessed 15 September 2026].
[6] Welsh Government (2024) *Planning Policy Wales*. Edition 12. February 2024.
[7] Stroh, P.A. et al. (2025). *A new vascular plant Red List for Great Britain*. British & Irish Botany, 7(3), 148–216.
[8] Dines, T (2008). *A Vascular Plant Red Data List for Wales*. Plantlife. Available online: https://www.plantlife.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/A-Vascular-Plant-Red-Data-List-for-Wales.pdf.
[9] Flintshire County Council (2025). Flintshire's Action Plan for Nature: Our Plan of Action for Biodiversity in Flintshire 2025–2030. Available at: https://committeemeetings.flintshire.gov.uk/documents/s91901/Enc.%202%20for%20Biodiversity%20Duty.pdf [Accessed 16 September 2026].
[10] JNCC (2004). Common Standards Monitoring (CSM) Guidance for Saltmarsh Habitats. Version August 2004. Available at: https://data.jncc.gov.uk/data/7607ac0b-f3d9-4660-9dda-0e538334ed86/CSM-SaltmarshHabitats-2004.pdf [Accessed: Accessed 15 September 2026]

that describe how the project will identify and remediate potential adverse effects.

2.2.2 The hierarchy of mitigation in descending order of preference is to avoid, minimise, mitigate/restore and compensate[11].

[11] CIEEM (2024) Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland: Terrestrial, Freshwater, Coastal and Marine. Version 1.3 Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, Winchester.

3. Methods

3.1 Desk study

3.1.1 An updated data search was not completed for this assessment. The Preliminary Ecological Appraisal Report (PEAR)[12] and Botanical Baseline Survey Report (**Appendix 11C: Botanical Technical Appendix (EN010166/APP/6.4)**) included a desk study using the following resources:

- The Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC) website[13] was reviewed for the following information:
  - Statutory designated sites of nature conservation importance within 2 km of the Construction and Operation Area. The search was extended to 10 km for internationally designated sites, comprising SPAs, Ramsar sites and SACs; and,
  - Notable habitats within 2 km of the Construction and Operation Area, including ancient woodland and habitats of principal importance listed under Section 7 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016[1].
- Cofnod, the Local Environmental Records Centre for North Wales, was consulted in March 2024 for the following ecological data:
  - Records of non-statutory designated sites within 2 km of the Construction and Operation Area; and,
  - Records of legally protected and notable species (fauna and flora) within 2 km of the Construction and Operation Area, including species of principal importance listed under Section 7 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016[1].

3.1.2 For the purposes of the PEAR desk study, records deemed as recent were defined as those no more than 10 years old at the time of the search. Older records were treated as historical and were reported where more recent records for a feature were not available.

3.2 NVC Field Survey

3.2.1 The NVC field survey focused on saltmarsh habitats within the Surface Water Outfall Area and a 30 m buffer (the Survey Area) and was completed by two experienced botanists/ecologists on 17 August 2026 using the NVC system[14] and in accordance with NVC survey guidelines[15]. August lies within the optimal period for NVC saltmarsh surveys. The NVC system provides a standardised method for classifying and mapping semi-natural habitats and enables plant communities to be assessed consistently.

3.2.2 The Survey Area was subject to a walkover survey to identify homogeneous stands and mosaics of vegetation. Where a plant community could be confidently assigned in the field by an experienced NVC surveyor, an NVC community was assigned based on its characteristic species and vegetation

[12] Connah's Quay Combined Cycle Gas Turbine (CCGT) with Carbon Capture Preliminary Ecological Appraisal Report. December 2023.
[13] Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) (2025). Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC) interactive mapping service. Available at: https://magic.defra.gov.uk/.
[14] Rodwell, J.S. (Ed), et al. (1991 – 2000). British Plant Communities (5 volumes). Cambridge, Cambridge University Press.
[15] Rodwell, J.S. (2006). NVC Users' Handbook. ISBN 978 1 86107 574 1.

structure. Otherwise, representative quadrats were recorded within stands to characterise the vegetation and assist with NVC classification.

3.2.3 Within homogenous stands, five quadrats were recorded where practicable to determine the frequency and abundance of species present. Fewer quadrats were recorded where stands were small or where the vegetation occurred as part of a more complex mosaic.

3.2.4 Quadrat sampling used 2 m x 2 m quadrats, appropriate to the field and ground-layer vegetation present. Quadrat locations were selected to be representative of the stand being assessed.

Cover/Abundance

3.2.5 The percentage cover of each visible plant species within each quadrat was estimated using the Domin scale[16] whereby a score is assigned to different ranges of percentage cover and abundance, as summarised in **Table 1**.

Table 1: Domin Scale

Cover/Abundance (%)	Domin Score
91-100	10
76-90	9
51-75	8
34-50	7
26-33	6
11-25	5
4-10	4
<4% (many individuals)	3
<4% (several individuals)	2
<4% (few individuals)	1

3.2.6 Quadrat results were tabulated to show the Domin score recorded in each quadrat, together with the range and frequency of occurrence for each species across the samples. The range represents the lowest and highest Domin scores recorded for a species. For example, where creeping buttercup *Ranunculus repens* was recorded in two quadrats with Domin scores of 6 and 7, its Domin range would be recorded as 6 – 7.

Frequency

3.2.7 Frequency describes how often a species occurs across the quadrats sampled, irrespective of its cover within individual quadrats. Frequency is summarised in floristic tables using the Roman numerals I-V and referred to in descriptions of vegetation types, using the terms listed in **Table 2**.

[16] sensu Dahl and Hadač 1941, D. E. (1941). Strandgesellschaften der Insel Ostøy im Oslofjord. Eine pflanzensoziologische studie. . *Nytt Magasin for Naturvidenskapene B, 82*, 251-312.

Table 2: Defining Frequency

Frequency Class	Range of Frequency Class (%)	Terms used to describe Frequency Class
V	81-100	Constant
IV	61-80	Frequent to constant
III	41-60	Frequent
II	21-40	Occasional
I	1-20 (i.e., 1 stand in 5)	Scarce

3.2.8 Using creeping buttercup again by way of an example, the occurrence of creeping buttercup in two out of the five quadrats sampled would result in a frequency of II.

Assigning NVC Communities

3.2.9 Following the field survey, NVC communities were assigned using surveyor experience and comparison of field data with published NVC floristic tables. Where communities are split into sub communities, vegetation was classified to sub-community level, when supported by the data; otherwise, classification was made at a community level.

3.3 Botanical List

3.3.1 Where an NVC community could be assigned confidently in the field, a botanical species list was recorded using the DAFOR (Dominant, Abundant, Frequent, Occasional, Rare) scale. This provides a semi-quantitative estimate of the relative abundance of species within a defined area, using the categories shown in **Table 3**.

Table 3: DAFOR Scale

Abundance	Range of Abundance Class
Dominant	50 - 100%
Abundant	30 - 50%
Frequent	15 - 30%
Occasional	5 – 15%
Rare	<5%

3.3.2 Botanical nomenclature in this report follows that of Stace[17] for vascular plants and Atherton *et al*.[18] for bryophytes.

3.4 Evaluation

3.4.1 The intrinsic value and conservation importance of habitats identified within the Survey Area were evaluated with reference to habitats of principal importance listed under Section 7 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016[1]. Individual plant species were evaluated with reference to those listed on Schedule 8 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981[2], species of principal importance listed under Section 7 of the Environment (Wales) 2016[2], the

[17] Stace, C.A. (2019). New Flora of the British Isles. 4th Edition. C&M Floristics.
[18] Atherton, I., Bosanquet, S. & Lawley, M. (2010). Mosses and Liverworts of Britain and Ireland: a field guide. British Bryological Society.

Vascular Plant Red List for Great Britain (2025)[7] and the Vascular Plant Red Data List for Wales (2008)[8].

3.4.2 The importance of habitats and species was also evaluated with reference to the Flintshire County Council (2025) Flintshire's Action Plan for Nature: Our Plan of Action for Biodiversity in Flintshire 2025–2030[9] and the Common Standards Monitoring Guidance for Saltmarsh Habitats[10].

3.5 Limitations

3.5.1 Biological records are derived from a range of sources and may vary in their completeness, accuracy and spatial precision. However, when considered alongside field survey data, they provide useful contextual information and can contribute to a robust ecological assessment of a site.

3.5.2 Although it is possible that some plant species were not recorded during the survey, for example if only visible earlier in the season, this is not considered to have significantly affected the overall assessment of the plant communities present. The survey followed an extended period of unusually dry weather with very limited rainfall. Although parts of the Survey Area remained wet, conditions varied, with some higher-lying areas being notably drier. This preceding dry weather may have reduced the visibility, abundance or vigour of some moisture-dependent species but this has been considered when interpreting the NVC results.

4. Results

4.1 Desk Study

4.1.1 An updated data search was not completed for this assessment. A desk study carried out for the Proposed Development PEAR and Botanical Baseline Survey Report (**Appendix 11C: Botanical Technical Appendix (EN010166/APP/6.4)**) used a 2 km Study Area for non-statutory designated sites, protected and notable species, statutory designated sites and notable habitats. The search area for internationally designated sites (SPA, SAC and Ramsar sites) was extended to 10 km from the Construction and Operation Area.

4.1.2 For the purposes of this NVC report, the desk study information presented has been limited to designated sites and habitats of relevance to the botanical assessment. Internationally designated sites located between 2 km and 10 km from the Surface Water Outfall Area are therefore not reported further. Where an internationally designated site is present within 2 km of the Surface Water Outfall Area but is designated solely for its ornithological features, this has not been considered further in this NVC report.

Designated Sites

Statutory Designated Sites for Nature Conservation

4.1.3 There are two internationally designated sites and one nationally designated site within 2 km of the Surface Water Outfall Area that are relevant to this NVC assessment, as their qualifying features include habitats and plant communities, as shown in **Table 4**.

Table 4: Statutory Designated Sites within respective Study Areas

Importance	Designated Site	Reason for Designation	Location of Designated Site
International	The Dee Estuary/Aber Dyfrdwy Ramsar Site (Wales and England)	Internationally important wetland comprising extensive intertidal mudflats, sandflats and saltmarsh.	Within the Surface Water Outfall Area
International	Dee Estuary/Aber Dyfrdwy SAC (Wales)	Designated for Annex I estuarine and coastal habitats, including mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide (H1140); *Salicornia* and other annuals colonising mud and sand (H1310); and Atlantic salt meadows (H1330). Other	Within the Surface Water Outfall Area

Importance	Designated Site	Reason for Designation	Location of Designated Site
		qualifying habitats include estuaries, drift-line vegetation, vegetated sea cliffs and coastal dune habitats.	
National	Dee Estuary SSSI (Wales)	Important for extensive and diverse saltmarsh, including pioneer, lower, middle and upper marsh communities in brackish and freshwater transitions.	Within the Surface Water Outfall Area

Non statutory Designated Sites for Nature Conservation

4.1.4 Four Local Wildlife Sites (LWS) were identified within 2 km of the Construction and Operation Area. However, all are located more than 500 m from the Surface Water Outfall Area and are designated for terrestrial habitats rather than saltmarsh. They are therefore not considered further in this report.

Notable Habitats

4.1.5 Notable habitats include habitats of principal importance listed under Section 7 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016[1] together with ancient woodland and other habitats of recognised nature conservation importance.

4.1.6 The PEAR (**Appendix 11C: Botanical Technical Appendix (EN010166/APP/6.4)**) identified the three notable habitats within 2 km of the Surface Water Outfall Area, as set out in **Table 5**.

Table 5: Notable Habitats within 2 km

Priority Habitat	Location of Notable Habitat
Saltmarsh	Within the Surface Water Outfall Area
Coastal and Floodplain Grazing Marsh	350 m south-east
Lowland Fen and Reedbed	1.5 km east

4.1.7 The closest area of ancient woodland is approximately 1.1 km south of the Surface Water Outfall Area.

Notable Plants

4.1.8 No notable plant species were recorded in the PEAR or Botanical Baseline Survey Report (**Appendix 11C: Botanical Technical Appendix (EN010166/APP/6.4)**).

Findings of the Botanical Report

Saltmarsh Habitats

4.1.9 The Botanical Baseline Survey Report (**Appendix 11C: Botanical Technical Appendix (EN010166/APP/6.4)**) identified the following communities within the Survey Area:

- S4a *Phragmites australis* swamp and reed-beds - *Phragmites australis* sub-community; and,
- SM28 *Elymus repens* salt-marsh community.

4.2 NVC Field Survey

4.2.1 The plant communities recorded during the survey are described in the following paragraphs, with their locations shown on **Figure 1** in **Appendix A**. Photographs are included in **Appendix B** and the floristic tables summarising the quadrat survey data are provided in **Appendix C**.

Stands A and B

Summary of Survey

4.2.2 Stands A and B, shown on **Figure 1** in **Appendix A,** were identified in the field as S4a *Phragmites australis* swamp and reed-beds - *Phragmites australis* sub-community. Both stands were species-poor and strongly dominated by common reed *Phragmites australis,* allowing the community to be identified in the field. Stand A was also recorded as S4a *Phragmites australis* swamp and reed-beds in 2024 and is considered to remain broadly unchanged.

4.2.3 As discussed in the Botanical Baseline Survey Report (**Appendix 11C: Botanical Technical Appendix (EN010166/APP/6.4)**), freshwater influence occurs within the upper parts of the estuarine saltmarsh system and can result in transitions to other wetland vegetation types, including brackish reedbeds. The presence of the S4a community is therefore not unexpected.

Evaluation: S4a Phragmites australis swamp and reed-beds - Phragmites australis sub-community

4.2.4 Stands A and B form part of the wider estuarine wetland mosaic and are consistent with the transition between saltmarsh and brackish reedbed vegetation within the upper saltmarsh system.

Stands C, D and E

Summary of Survey

4.2.5 Stands C, D and E, shown on **Figure 1** in **Appendix A**, were identified in the field as SM28 *Elymus repens* salt-marsh community. The stands were species-poor and strongly dominated by common couch *Elymus repens,* allowing the community to be identified in the field. Stand C was also recorded as SM28 *Elymus repens* salt-marsh community in 2024 and is considered to remain broadly unchanged.

Evaluation: SM28 Elymus repens salt-marsh community

4.2.6 Stands C, D and E form part of the upper saltmarsh mosaic and are considered representative of the SM28 *Elymus repens* salt-marsh community. Although species-poor, the stands contribute to the overall range of saltmarsh vegetation present in the Survey Area and its surrounds.

Stand F

Summary of Survey

4.2.7 Stand F, shown on **Figure 1** in **Appendix A,** comprised a small patch of vegetation extending only a few metres around the edge of the existing surface water outfall. The vegetation did not show a sufficiently close fit to a recognised NVC community. Creeping bent *Agrostis stolonifera* was dominant, with common couch and spear-leaved orache *Atriplex prostrata* also abundant.

4.2.8 The vegetation showed some similarity to the adjacent SM28 *Elymus repens* saltmarsh community, but is considered more likely to represent transitional vegetation, influenced by local freshwater inputs from the existing surface water outfall.

Evaluation of Stand F

4.2.9 Stand F represents a small area of transitional vegetation associated with the existing surface water outfall. Although too limited in extent and composition for NVC classification, it contributes to local variation within saltmarsh vegetation present within the Survey Area.

Stand G

4.2.10 Stand G, shown on **Figure 1** in **Appendix A**, was subject to NVC survey, with the central grid references (GRs) of the quadrats provided in **Table 6**.

Table 6: Stand G - Central Location of each Quadrat

Stand Name	Quadrat Number	Central GR
Stand G	1	SJ2787671277
	2	SJ2787871280
	3	SJ2788171286
	4	SJ2788571293
	5	SJ2788971297

Summary of NVC Survey

4.2.11 Stand G showed closest affinity to SM28 *Elymus repens* community, although the vegetation represented a red fescue *Festuca rubra* rich form. The vegetation comprised a tall sward dominated by red fescue with common couch and creeping bent constant throughout the sampled stand.

The stand occurred on raised ground, with false oat grass *Arrhenatherum elatius* and bird's-foot trefoil *Lotus corniculatus* also recorded. The presence of false oat grass may indicate a transition towards less salt-influenced grassland vegetation at the upper saltmarsh margin.

Evaluation: SM28 Elymus repens salt-marsh community

4.2.12 Stand G forms part of the upper saltmarsh vegetation within the Survey Area and its surrounds and reflects the influence of slightly raised ground and comparatively infrequent inundation. Although atypical of the more strongly *Elymus repens* dominated SM28 vegetation elsewhere within the Survey Area, the stand is considered to fall within the variation of the SM28 community and contributes to the overall range and zonation of saltmarsh communities present.

Stand H

4.2.13 Stand H, shown on **Figure 1** in **Appendix A**, was subject to NVC survey, with the central GRs of the quadrats provided in **Table 7**. Three quadrats were recorded within the stand. Further sampling was constrained by the presence of soft intertidal sediment, which prevented safe access to other parts of the stand within the Survey Area. Sampling further into the stand would also have extended beyond the Survey Area. However, based on observations of the wider stand and professional judgement, the quadrats were considered representative of the vegetation present and sufficient to support the NVC classification.

Table 7: Stand H - Central Location of each Quadrat

Stand Name	Quadrat Number	Central GR
Stand H	1	SJ2785571281
	2	SJ2786071290
	3	SJ2786471297

Summary of NVC Survey

4.2.14 Stand H showed a good fit with SM13a *Puccinellia maritima* salt-marsh community - *Puccinellia maritima* sub-community. Common saltmarsh-grass *Puccinellia maritima* was constant and dominant throughout the sampled vegetation, with sea aster *Tripolium pannonicum* and spear-leaved orache also occurring consistently.

Evaluation: SM13a Puccinellia maritima salt-marsh community - Puccinellia maritima sub-community.

4.2.15 The dominance of common saltmarsh-grass, together with the consistent occurrence of sea aster and spear-leaved orache, is characteristic of SM13a and is consistent with the position of Stand H within the lower saltmarsh. The stand therefore forms part of the range of saltmarsh communities present within the Survey Area.

5. Evaluation Of Ecological Importance

5.1.1 The NVC survey data identified the only NVC community present within the Surface Water Outfall Area is SM28 *Elymus repens* salt-marsh community including an atypical *Festuca rubra* rich form.

5.1.2 An area of S4a *Phragmites australis* swamp and reed-beds - *Phragmites australis* sub-community is located just to the south-east of the Surface Water Outfall Area. An area of SM13a *Puccinellia maritima* salt-marsh community - *Puccinellia maritima* sub-community with *Puccinellia maritima* dominant was also noted in the wider Survey Area to the north-west of the Surface Water Outfall Area.

5.1.3 Of the communities recorded, the SM13 *Puccinellia maritima* salt-marsh community corresponds with vegetation characteristic of the H1330 Atlantic salt-meadows (*Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae*) Annex I habitat type, which is a qualifying feature of the Dee Estuary/Aber Dyfrdwy SAC[19]. The SM28 *Elymus repens* saltmarsh and S4a *Phragmites australis* occur within the wider estuarine vegetation mosaic. Taken together, the communities recorded form part of the wider saltmarsh and associated wetland habitat within the designated estuary.

[19] Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) (2026) Dee Estuary/Aber Dyfrdwy Special Area of Conservation (SAC), Site Code UK0030131. Available at: https://sac.jncc.gov.uk/site/UK0030131 [Accessed 23 September 2026]

6. Conclusion

6.1.1 The NVC survey confirmed the presence of a range of saltmarsh and associated wetland communities within the Survey Area, including lower to mid saltmarsh, upper saltmarsh vegetation and reedbed vegetation. Approximately 585 m^2 is present within the Surface Water Outfall Area.

6.1.2 The SM28 Elymus repens salt-marsh community is described by Rodwell as "*being especially frequent around the Irish Sea coast."* This is a species-poor community and of relatively low sensitivity compared to the other community types, however it is in matrix with the other communities and within the designations. As such, the saltmarsh as a whole is considered to be of international importance.

6.1.3 The previously surveyed vegetation was considered to remain broadly unchanged, while the additional survey areas extended the recorded distribution of NVC communities within the Survey Area.

6.1.4 The saltmarsh forms part of the wider internationally designated Dee Estuary/Aber Dyfrdwy estuarine habitat, which is internationally designated, and includes vegetation corresponding with the H1330 Atlantic salt meadows Annex I habitat.

Appendix A: Figure

Revision: 0 Drawn: AB Checked: JG Approved: RR Date: 2026-10-27



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PROJECT

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LEGEND

- Surface Water Outfall Area
- Survey Area (30m buffer)

NVC Survey Results 2026 - Quadrat Locations and Plant Communities

- SM13a *Puccinellia maritima* saltmarsh community - *Puccinellia maritima* sub-community with *Puccinellia maritima* dominant
- SM28 *Elymus repens* saltmarsh community *Festuca rubra* rich variant
- No close fit to a defined NVC community

National Vegetation Classification Areas

- S4a *Phragmites australis* swamp and reed-beds - *Phragmites australis* sub-community
- SM13a *Puccinellia maritima* saltmarsh community - *Puccinellia maritima* sub-community with *Puccinellia maritima* dominant
- SM28 *Elymus repens* saltmarsh community *Festuca rubra* rich variant
- SM28 *Elymus repens* saltmarsh community
- Standing water

NOTES

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ISSUE PURPOSE

Post DCO Reporting

DATE

October 2026

PROJECT NUMBER

60768754

FIGURE TITLE

Connah's Quay Power Station
NVC Report

FIGURE NUMBER

Figure 1

Filename: C:\Users\BolchiA\AECOM\Jniper Connah's Quay LCDP DCO - 920_GIS\02_Maps\Post-DCO Submission\NVC Survey Report\CQ_PostDCO_NVC_Survey_Report_20260928.aprx

Appendix B Photographs

Stand	Photographs	
Stand A		
Stand B		

Stand	Photographs	
Stand C		
Stand D		

Stand	Photographs	
Stand E		
Stand F		

Stand	Photographs	
Stand G		
Stand H		

Appendix C Floristic Tables

Table C-1: Abundance by DAFOR of Plant Species in Stand A and B.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Stand A	Stand B
Common reed	*Phragmites australis*	Dominant	Dominant

Table C-2: Abundance by DAFOR of Plant Species in Stand C, D, E and F

Common Name	Scientific Name	Stand C	Stand D	Stand E	Stand F
Common couch	*Elymus repens*	Dominant	Dominant	Dominant	Abundant
Spear-leaved orache	*Atriplex prostrata*	Abundant	Occasional	Abundant	Abundant
Sea aster	*Tripolium pannonicum*	Rare	Rare	Rare	Not recorded
Perennial sow-thistle	*Sonchus arvensis*	Not recorded	Not recorded	Rare	Not recorded
Creeping bent	*Agrostis stolonifera*	Not recorded	Not recorded	Not recorded	Dominant

Table C-3: Stand G - SM28 *Elymus repens* salt-marsh community - *Festuca rubra* rich variant Floristic Table

Common Name	Scientific Name	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Frequency	Abundance
Red fescue	*Festuca rubra*	10	9	9	8	9	V	8-10
Common couch	*Elymus repens*	6	7	7	6	6	V	6-7
Creeping bent	*Agrostis stolonifera*	5	5	4	5	4	V	4-5
Spear-leaved orache	*Atriplex prostrata*	3	4	1	-	-	III	0-4
False oat-grass	*Arrhenatherum elatius*	-	-	-	4	4	II	0-4
Sea couch	*Elymus athericus*	-	-	-	5	-	I	0-5
Bird's-foot trefoil	*Lotus corniculatus*	3	-	-	-	-	I	0-3

Table C-4: Stand H - SM13a *Puccinellia maritima* salt-marsh community - *Puccinellia maritima* sub-community Floristic Table

Common Name	Scientific Name	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Frequency	Abundance
Common saltmarsh-grass	*Puccinellia maritima*	10	10	10	N/A	N/A	N/A	10
Sea aster	*Tripolium pannonicum*	5	6	7	N/A	N/A	N/A	5-7
Spear-leaved orache	*Atriplex prostrata*	7	4	5	N/A	N/A	N/A	4-7