



Examining Authority
National Infrastructure Planning
Temple Quay House
2 The Square
Bristol
BS1 6PN

Registration identification number: 20048746

Submitted via the [‘Have your Say’](#) portal

21st February 2025

Dear Sir/Madam,

EN010128: APPLICATION BY CORY ENVIRONMENTAL HOLDINGS LIMITED FOR AN ORDER GRANTING DEVELOPMENT CONSENT FOR THE CORY DECARBONISATION PROJECT – EXAMINATION TIMETABLE DEADLINE 4

CPRE London is a membership-based charity with 2500 members across London, concerned with the preservation and enhancement of London’s vital green spaces, as well as the improvement of London’s environment for the health and wellbeing of all Londoners.

We are writing to provide Deadline 4 submissions regarding the above application.

Crossness Nature Reserve is a well-managed and much-loved Site of Metropolitan Importance for Nature Conservation (SMINC) and, according to Appendix 5 of the London Environment Strategy, should have the highest priority for protection. It is also Metropolitan Open Land (MOL) which should be protected from inappropriate development. We strongly object to Cory Environmental Holdings Limited’s application to compulsory purchase part of the nature reserve to build a Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) facility.

Crossness Nature Reserve is one of the largest remaining areas of grazing marsh in Greater London and provides crucial habitat for wildlife. It has significant ecological importance for a range of species, including frog rush, water vole, shrill carder bee and birds such as Black Redstart, Skylark and Reed Warbler. Lapwing also regularly breed close to the location of the proposed development. The reserve is clearly a unique space for nature as well as a tranquil, relaxing place for local Bexley residents to visit. It also helps to protect Bexley from flooding.



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We are concerned that despite its professed green credentials, CCS is a largely untested and unproven technology. Ideally, the carbon impacts of waste management should be addressed through waste reduction, reuse and recycling. But in any case, CCS facilities should certainly not be permitted to endanger wildlife and destroy wetland habitats, which are already a highly effective natural carbon sink. There are alternative brownfield sites for the development which may be more suitable, and less damaging to biodiversity.

As well as the ecological damage this scheme will cause, we are concerned about the visual impact of the CCS plant on the nature reserve. The construction of overbearing, industrial infrastructure down the length of the reserve's eastern boundary will significantly harm the openness of the MOL and make the area less appealing for visitors. Crossness is simply not a suitable location for this development.

Yours faithfully,

[Redacted signature]

Campaigns Officer
CPRE London