

1. This submission sets out a formal objection to the proposed Peak Cluster CO₂ Pipeline as it relates to **Barnton, Winnington, Northwich, and the surrounding CW8 area**. The proposed route passes close to established residential communities, schools, key transport corridors, and sensitive environmental assets. The project, in its current form, presents unacceptable risks and has not demonstrated compliance with statutory consultation requirements or national planning policy.

2. Inadequate Consultation for Barnton and the CW8 Area

Residents and local councils in Barnton have **not been adequately consulted**, despite the pipeline's proximity to:

- Dense residential areas
- Barnton Primary School
- Barnton Cemetery
- The A533 corridor
- Ongoing housing developments in Winnington and Barnton

Key failures include:

- No consultation events held **in Barnton**
- Insufficient notice to residents in CW8
- Lack of accessible route maps showing Barnton impacts
- No targeted engagement with vulnerable or elderly residents
- No direct engagement with Barnton Parish Council despite being a directly affected community

This falls short of the **Planning Act 2008** requirement for early, meaningful, and inclusive consultation.

3. Public Safety Risks Specific to Barnton

Barnton is a **densely populated village** with limited evacuation routes. A high-pressure CO₂ pipeline presents serious risks:

- CO₂ is heavier than air and can accumulate in low-lying areas such as **Barnton's valley edges and cuttings**
- The village has **only two primary exit routes** (A533 and Runcorn Road), both of which could be compromised in an emergency
- Emergency services access is already constrained by narrow roads and congestion
- No emergency planning information has been provided for Barnton or Northwich

The developer has not demonstrated compliance with the **Pipeline Safety Regulations 1996** or the **Health and Safety at Work Act 1974**.

4. Environmental and Heritage Impacts in Barnton

The proposed route risks impacting:

- **Barnton Cemetery** (quiet, sensitive land use)
- **Local wildlife corridors** connecting to Anderton Nature Park
- **Woodland and green buffer zones** around Barnton and Winnington
- **Historic industrial heritage sites** linked to the Weaver Navigation

The Environmental Impact Assessment scoping has **not addressed Barnton-specific receptors**, nor demonstrated compliance with:

- The **Environment Act 2021**
- **Habitats Regulations**
- **Biodiversity Net Gain** requirements

5. Impact on Local Infrastructure and Development

Barnton and Winnington are experiencing **significant residential growth**, including:

- New estates off Runcorn Road
- Ongoing development in Winnington Village
- Increased traffic pressure on the A533 and local junctions

The pipeline threatens to:

- Sterilise land needed for future housing
- Disrupt existing utilities
- Create long-term construction impacts on narrow village roads
- Conflict with local planning policy and neighbourhood development priorities

No mitigation strategy has been provided.

6. Lack of Route Justification Through Barnton

The developer has not provided:

- A clear rationale for routing the pipeline through a **densely populated village**
- A transparent alternatives assessment
- Evidence that less harmful routes (industrial corridors, open farmland, or offshore options) were properly considered

This fails to meet the requirements of **National Policy Statement EN-4**.

7. Conclusion

For the reasons set out above, I/we formally object to the proposed Peak Cluster CO₂ Pipeline route through Barnton and the surrounding CW8 area. The proposal:

- Fails to meet statutory consultation requirements
- Presents unacceptable public safety risks
- Lacks environmental and heritage safeguards
- Conflicts with local development and infrastructure
- Does not justify the chosen route
- Fails to comply with national planning policy