

Connection to the National Grid.

During the preliminary hearings the Applicants stated they had no choice in deciding upon Penwortham as the connection point. This seemed an area of contention with legal representatives of Parish councils (and a query from the Chair). There seemed to be issues with the Grid's use of the words "preferred" route and that the Applicants "substantially" had no decision. I raised this issue with the National Grid back in December - via a Freedom of Information request - and received the reply below. It seems to me that the Applicants are correct in that the Grid has the responsibility to decide on the connection point.

"Thank you for your message.

As part of our legal obligation to facilitate new connections to the network, it is our responsibility to identify the most suitable connection point based on factors such as location, project requirements, network resilience, cost, environment and the capacity of our existing infrastructure.

Penwortham and Stanah substations have different roles within our electricity network and for Morgan and Morecambe's proposed projects, Stanah is currently not best placed to accommodate these connections.

Stanah is a small substation that has primarily been designed to step down the power from higher voltage transmission lines to lower voltage lines, so that it is ready to be distributed to consumers.

Penwortham is much larger in comparison and is part of our high-voltage transmission network, which is able to connect power generation sources, such as wind farms, to the network. Unlike Stanah, Penwortham substation currently has the flexibility and capacity on-site to facilitate Morgan and Morecambe's connection requests."