

Accompanied Site Inspection

The Accompanied Site Inspection is planned for 25th June 2025 starting at the North Beach Car Park. Depending on weather and tide conditions on the day I suggest that the Examining Authority (EXA) walk the entirety of the proposed cable installation corridors from the beach to Blackpool Airport.

These proposed cable corridors will have up to six underground pipelines through which it is proposed to pull in the off shore cables from the Pipe Exit Points on the beach to the Transmission Joint Bays (TJB) situated on Blackpool Airport land. The method of steel pipe installation proposed is by drilling/boring the complete lengths for each pipe continuously underground at depths of up to 30m.

If the EXA started their route at 100m seaward from the point where the toe of the dunes meets the beach they would then traverse the dunes, taking note of the proposed widths of each cable corridor, cross Clifton Drive North and the the Nature Reserve/SSI to the existing railway line. After relocating then to continue across the Golf Course to the boundary with Blackpool Airport. And after relocating again to the Airport (assuming advanced security procedures have been agreed) to the proposed positions of the up to six TJBs situated on this land.

This would give the EXA an insight into the specific distances that are proposed to be drilled/bored continuously underground from the TJBs to Pipe Exit Points and the feasibility of this work being undertaken with no surface excavation at any point along the route. It would also give the EXA an opportunity to consider the effects of this proposed civil engineering work in terms of noise, vibration and potential subsidence on adjacent residential and commercial properties.

They might also consider the impact of the proposed Cofferdams at each exit point and the types of heavy machinery and equipment required to undertake tasks of this nature as well as the realistic implication that disturbance to and closure of beach access is inevitable and potentially long term.