

As a resident of the Fylde and specifically Freckleton, the following are my concerns and further considerations in relation to the Morgan and Morecambe Offshore Wind Farms Transmission Assets DCO Application:-

1. The choice of route from landfall at St Annes North Beach to Penwortham, including the siting of substations between Newton and Freckleton on greenbelt land gives cause for concern, especially when there is a much shorter, cheaper and less damaging route which can connect to Penwortham via Stanah, using an existing National Grid line which I understand is already 400kv capable and could provide a cost saving estimated at £903m at current prices. This alternative would use a brownfield site and create jobs in a deprived area of Lancashire. The applicants appear to have avoided responsibility for landfall decisions and have deferred to National Grid in opting for the route they have chosen.
2. The chosen route has many adverse impacts which include:-
 - loss of Best and Most Versatile agricultural land
 - the use of unsuitable rural roads for HGV traffic, particularly across moss roads and narrow rural lanes
 - the closure of major routes such as Clifton Drive North and Queensway which could cause major traffic disruption
 - delays to emergency vehicles due to road closures
 - closure of the beach at St Annes with no plans for access in place
 - cables possibly being taken both sides of The New Thursby Care Home on Clifton Drive
 - increased risk of flooding caused by the works
 - damage to local ecology systems
 - possible disruption to the Fylde Coast tourist industry
3. I have a major concern with regard to air safety due to poor engagement by Morgan & Morecambe with BAe Systems. Living in the village of Freckleton I know how the air disaster of August 1944 still affects villagers to this day.
4. There has been no emergency vehicle impact statement and as mentioned above the closure of major routes could result in delays to blue light vehicles.
5. The proposed substations are in close proximity to residential areas and three schools which could be extremely hazardous if a substation failure were to occur.
6. The applicants will not commit to a single period of construction and I understand may want to allow a period of 4 years between schemes. This could mean a total build period of at least 10 years causing a much greater impact on local communities.
7. Consultation efforts were insufficient at the very start of this process and do not appear to have improved.
8. I understand that Morgan & Morecambe are unwilling to discuss Community benefits at this stage despite there being available government guidance on this subject.
9. The cumulative impact of substations, cabling and solar farms lack adequate assessment and will result in increased industrialisation of a rural area.