

Reference Number 20053114

This cable route will significantly impact my family, myself, and our business, as well as other Fylde landowners, businesses, and residents, particularly in rural areas. The project's scale is substantial due to the width of the corridor and the lengthy timeframe required for completion. At 122 meters wide, it exceeds the width of a motorway, and the projected duration of 5 to 8 years or more means that the land will be out of action for an extended period. It seems inefficient that the two companies involved cannot coordinate their efforts to complete the on-shore infrastructure simultaneously, rather than sequentially over several years.

The cable route will affect agricultural grade 2-3 land, rendering at least four fields unfarmable during the project's duration. This will eliminate our Christmas Tree Plantation and disrupt our cropping and grassland program, which operates on a 3–4-year rotation. Consequently, it will become challenging to sustain our beef cattle unit, consisting of 200 to 250 animals, as we rely on growing crops to feed them and maintain traceability in their diet. We cultivate cereals, grass, maize, and Christmas trees.

The cable route passes through our Christmas Tree Plantation, which is at various stages of growth and development. This project would halt the planting schedule and development of this part of our business. Access to the field may be impeded due to Morgan and Morecambe's (M&M) access being situated in the same area. The Christmas Trees has been an established business for over 20 years, servicing town centres and Lytham, and it is a significant income stream for us. The placement of the cable route along Ballam Road and Peel Road could interfere with or even halt our operations due to the farm's location, potentially reducing revenue and causing a loss of income for up to 10 years. Additionally, there are two designated M&M compounds around the Ballam Road and Peel Road Junction on our land, which could disrupt the selling and delivering of trees.

The Christmas Tree plantation also offers a place where flora and fauna survive. It supports various wildlife & insects, and we have seen orchids there in the past. It is a magical place.

The traffic is anticipated to increase beyond the original design capacity of the roads. Peel Road and Ballam Road have a notably uneven camber with a 40mph speed limit, but certain sections require driving at 15 mph for safety. These roads contain numerous potholes, and the edges are deteriorating. Large vehicles often struggle to pass each other and occasionally fall off the road into the fields. The road infrastructure is inadequate and has not been properly maintained by Lancs County Council, likely due to budget constraints. This issue is common among many rural roads in the area. Additionally, internal road planning needs consideration. When constructing a slurry store, we reinforced the foundation significantly for stability. Heavy lorry traffic on the

fields run the risk of sinking due to unstable ground. This instability has previously caused issues with machinery. Restoring the field post-construction could also render the land unsuitable for farming, similar to the conditions experienced at the Anna's Road Fracking site.

This area is highly susceptible to flooding. Since the Environment Agency assumed responsibility for the assets at Dock Bridge Pumping Station, the water table has remained higher than appropriate levels. Field conditions from September through March and April are extremely wet, resulting in numerous flooded fields along the cable route. The soil consistency resembles porridge.

Branch Drain, Main Drain, and Wrea Brook serve as the primary channels for water to flow out to sea, with the cable route intersecting or traveling alongside these channels at various points. I am greatly concerned about the potential collapse or interference with these drains, which are classified as main rivers in this region. Such issues could lead to severe flooding of extensive land areas and surrounding regions, degrading prime agricultural properties and causing significant property damage. Additionally, there is a risk of flooding in East Lytham due to rapid water backup caused by recent developments over the past few years. This drainage system dates back to the 1840s.

The Environment Agency has been experiencing recurring issues with the pumps and penstock gates. The Fylde region faces significant water and flooding problems even after 1-2 inches of rainfall, as the current system cannot adequately handle such influxes. It is imperative that M & M does not place additional strain on the drainage system by discharging their water into this already volatile network. There is also no mention in documents of access for maintaining the waterways.

Land issues are numerous. M & M's travel and disruption of land drains would likely cause flooding. For half the year, land drains are invisible under grass or topsoil. Subsoil, known as "Blue Billy," moves underground and can harden like concrete if exposed, making the land unfarmable. M & M also failed to consider access for maintaining main river waterways for farmers and the Environment Agency.

There is a 13 km restricted area around Blackpool Airport and BAE Warton. This scheme could pose security risks and interfere with electronics and radar, similar to why wind turbines are prohibited on our farm.

The proposed scheme is expected to cause significant disruptions to farming operations in the area, potentially impacting the future of our farming business. The scheme does not appear to offer any local benefits, either rurally or in the urban areas of Lytham St. Annes, Warton, Wrea Green, Newton, and Freckleton. Local businesses, including ours, may experience operational challenges leading to economic decline in South Fylde. The hamlet of Ballam and its surroundings could face issues such as noise, pollution, reduced air quality, and potential impacts on livestock welfare. There is

also concern about the ability to participate in farming incentive schemes, which provide essential income.

Young people in the region are highly dedicated to agriculture, and this scheme might challenge their efforts amidst other political pressures and regulations. The project could result in poorer land drainage, increased flooding, obstacles like junction boxes in fields, loss of business revenue, and soil degradation that may take decades to recover. This could ultimately reduce the value of the land and farm.

While I support the development of offshore wind farms, I oppose the current cable route through Fylde. Alternatives such as Hill House in Thornton, Blackpool's Local Enterprise Zone, or the River Ribble must be considered.

The provided text contains 1,063 words.









*Tributary of Main Drain bank breach, Dec 2015 post Storm's Desmond & Eva*













## Flood Information Sheet: CRNo

About you	
Name:	ANGELA LAYCOCK (NEU SHOPS)
Contact number(s):	[REDACTED]
Email address:	[REDACTED]
Address & post code:	[REDACTED]
Who are you reporting	
Myself <input type="checkbox"/>	Someone else <input type="checkbox"/> A group of individuals <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Please provide the names, addresses and contact details for others affected by the incident who have agreed to you sharing their information (please attach details on a separate overleaf):	
[REDACTED]	

About the Flood	
Actual location of the flood: e.g. Address and postcode, grid reference or what3words* reference	THE WHOLE OF EAST LYTHAM CATCHMENT AREA FROM M55 MOTORWAY, to DOCK BRIDGE BRANCH DRAIN, BIRKS WATERCOURSE LICCARD BROOK
What date did the flooding start?	31/12/24 Time: APPROX MIDNIGHT 31/12/24
How long did the flooding last?	Water still present <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Less than 3 hours <input type="checkbox"/> 3 hours or more <input type="checkbox"/> Not sure <input type="checkbox"/>

<b>Number of properties internally affected:</b> <i>Internal flooding refers to any habitable space inside a dwelling that is affected by flooding – note a cellar or basement is not considered internal flooding unless the building regulations have proved the area as living space.</i>	<b>Type of property</b>		<b>Number affected</b>
	Residential property		
	Commercial property		
	Not Sure		✓

<b>How did the water enter the property (check all that apply):</b>			
From the front entrance <input type="checkbox"/>	From the rear entrance <input type="checkbox"/>	Via the window/roof <input type="checkbox"/>	
Via a partition wall <input type="checkbox"/>	From under the floor <input type="checkbox"/>	Via an exterior wall <input type="checkbox"/>	
			Unknown <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

<b>Number of properties externally affected:</b> <i>External flooding refers to non-habitable spaces and areas located outside the property, such as cellars, basements, garages, outbuildings, gardens, patios, driveways and open land.</i>	<b>Type of property</b>		<b>Number affected</b>
	Residential property e.g garden flooding, sheds etc		
	Commercial property		
	Not Sure OPEN LAND		EVERY FARM



Agricultural Land affected :	Agricultural Land affected (Best and Most Versatile - BMV)	Area of land affected
<i>Details of the system of grading can be found in: Agricultural Land Classification of England and Wales: revised guidelines and criteria for grading the quality of agricultural land. www.defra.gov.uk</i>	Grade 1	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 1 Hectare <input type="checkbox"/> More than 1 Hectare
	Grade 2	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 1 Hectare <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> More than 1 Hectare
	Grade 3a	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 1 Hectare <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> More than 1 Hectare
	Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 1 Hectare <input type="checkbox"/> More than 1 Hectare

Were any services or infrastructure affected by the flooding? (check all that apply)

Utility services ☐ Highway and Transport ☐ Community halls etc ☐  
 Schools / Nurseries ☐ Hospitals / Medical ☐ Private services ☐  
 Other ☒ (please specify) **AGRICULTURAL LAND**

Where did the water come from (check all that apply):

Public road ☐ Private land ☐ River, stream or sea ☒  
 Underground stream ☐ Drain or sewage system ☐ Canal or reservoir ☐  
 Burst Water Main ☐ Domestic drainage or appliance ☐ Not sure ☐

Please provide further details if known (including source and cause of flooding):

If you have evidence you can submit please advise us here and we will send you a link to our secure File Transfer Account in a follow up email: **TOO HIGH WATER TABLE FROM SALTCOTES BRIDGE TO DOCK BRIDGE, ... NOT ENOUGH CAPACITY ON WEATHER EVENT, QUICKLY BACKS UP TO ALL AREAS. LIQUID BODIC NETWORKING - MAIN DRAIN HAS TO TAKE EVERYTHING, PUMPS + DOOR BROKEN AT TIMES. ? BLOCKAGE FROM SALTCOTES TO DOCK BRIDGE OR IMPINGEMENT - WATER NOT GETTING TO PUMPS. LOST ALL WINTER CROPS AGAIN.**

Has the flooding ever happened before?

☐ No - one off incident  
☒ More than once within the last 5 years  
☐ More than once, but more than 5 years ago  
☐ Not sure

If flooding has occurred previously Please provide further details if known (including dates, impacts, source and cause):

**25-7-23 - EA WOULD NOT OPEN DOORS 1 PUMP WORKING WATER NOT GETTING TOO PUMPS - CROPS FLOODED**  
**16-10-24 - FIELDS FLOODED - WATER NOT GETTING AWAY LOSS OF CROPS**  
**1-1-24 - FIELDS FLOODED - WATER RUNNING BACKWARDS AT A523**  
**WATER HAS BEEN RUNNING 10 DAYS OUT OF 14 ALL ALONG DRAIN FLOOD**

Please read and sign the following disclaimer:

Data Protection - this information may be shared between flood risk management authorities (Lead Local Flood Authority, Environment Agency, Local Authorities, water utility companies and internal drainage boards) and be used to plan future flood defence schemes and to inform the public about whether there is a risk of flooding in a particular area. This does not affect your statutory rights

I confirm the details on the form are correct to the best of my knowledge and that all persons residing at any of the properties listed have given their explicit permission for me to submit their details for the purpose set out above ☒

Signature

Date of signing

2/1/2025

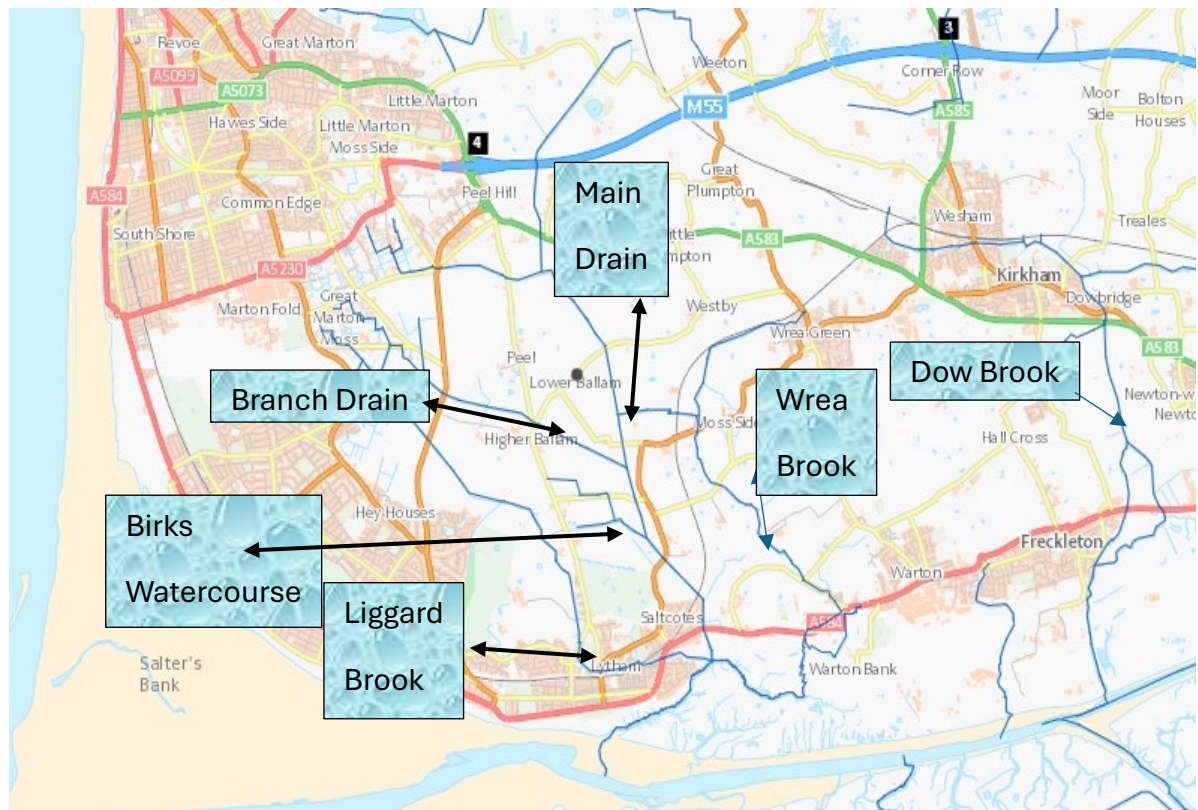
I CAN GO  
 BACK TILL  
 2012  
 OR EVEN  
 2001

2020 → EA DID TELEMETRY OF THE DRAIN - 1 METER OF SILT IN PLACES  
 WITH A PROMISE TO GET FUNDING TO DE SILT - NO ACTION  
 THIS IS NOT ALL DOWN TO RIPARIAN OWNERS - NEED COORDINATING  
 TIRED OF TALKING - NEED ACTION



## FYLDE DYKE DAYS

### Map Of Fylde Borough with Main River watercourses, Lancashire



### History

The Dutch built watercourses or drains in the 1840s to drain 6000 acres of agricultural land for £3000, financed by the Clifton family. Previously, landowners met with the Cliftons for Dyke inspections on Dyke Days. There was an Internal Drainage Board until it was disbanded in 1968.

### Workings of Drain

There is a 3-metre land drop from the M55 to Dock Bridge at Lytham, where water flows out to sea. Dock Road Bridge has three storm pumps (0.8m, 1m, and 1.2m) and also features two penstock gates and two flood flaps. Built in 1998, a weir diverts water from Liggard Brook to Birks watercourse for overflow management but now runs continuously, adding pressure on Main Drain. The Main River watercourses collect water from the M55, Blackpool Airport, and surrounding areas. Water from higher elevations in Lytham St Annes and South Blackpool flows out to sea behind the towns and returns to Dock Road Bridge at Lytham.

### Problems of Flooding

- Major floods occurred between 2012 and 2015 and have since become a regular yearly occurrence. The issue is not solely attributed to climate change; it is also



believed that the water cannot exit to the sea quickly enough and cannot reach the pumps in a timely fashion.



Flooding in the Fylde.

- Telemetry data from July 2020 showed that there is one metre of silt in the drains, indicating the need for desilting the entire drainage system. Liggard Brook, which runs through Lytham town, lacks proper maintenance access and has become stagnant. Properties' gardens back onto the brook.
- Approximately 8000 houses have been developed in the area without consideration of how the Victorian drainage system will manage the additional water intake. Flooding of properties has become more frequent in some areas.
- Since the Environment Agency took control, the water table has risen compared to when the Rivers Authority managed it. Higher river levels have submerged land drains, and houses built on piles in Moss Lands have reduced water absorption.

Additionally, Sustainable Urban Drainage schemes are not adequately monitored for effectiveness.

- Wrea Brook is a narrow brook that goes all the way out to sea. Due to all the developments and the quickness in which the Brook fills it often overflows so flooding good agricultural farmland and the loss of crops.

#### [Wrea Brook overflowing](#)



- Riparian ownership appears ineffective. If I maintain my section of the main watercourse, but neighbouring landowners or clusters of residences do not manage theirs, it renders the effort futile. The works need coordinating
- The Environment Agency and contractors do not inform landowners about issues with watercourses during maintenance. Improved communication is needed. Major issues take too long to resolve and fund, such as our pre-COVID wait for an automatic weed removing screen and promised de-silt.
- The EA manages the pumping station, similar to keeping a bath plugged when there is excessive rainfall. More people are needed at ground level rather than EA working from computers and offices.
- Dock Bridge by the pumping station has 3 cracks in the walls. There are tell-tale stickers attached to the cracks, and it appears these cracks have worsened since 2012. If this bridge experiences a high tide combined with strong winds, it may fail, potentially affecting the sea defence and leading to tidal conditions that could impact agricultural farmland and residences in east Lytham.

## Middle Crack of Dock Bridge



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### Communication and coordinating works

A council or organisation, such as an IDB, is necessary to organise the riparian owners for maintaining the watercourses and coordinating works. While farmers contribute to these efforts, it is also important for pony paddocks, dwellings, and businesses along the drains to be involved with in the urban and rural community.

### Effects of flooding

The loss of seeds, crops, income, land fertility, soil degradation, grazing land, habitat, cattle nutrition, and the increase in diseases contribute to financial loss and severe



stress. Additionally, the depletion of natural fauna and flora, including the loss of worms and wildlife, exacerbates these challenges.

The EA did not realise we had a problem on 03-01-2025. The pumps were not working

