

Ref: Morgan and Morecambe Offshore Wind Farms Transmission Assets (EN020032)
– Request for Accompanied Site Visit

Dear Examining Authority Panel,

I am writing on behalf of NPL Hillhouse Thornton Facilities Management to formally request that the following locations be included in the Examination Authority's itinerary for Accompanied Site Inspections (ASIs), as referenced in your Rule 8 letter dated 8 May 2025.

1. Context and Material Relevance

In our Relevant Representation (27 January 2025), we raised serious concerns about the proposed 30km onshore cable route to Penwortham, stating that it does not represent the most appropriate or cost-effective connection option. Specifically, we noted that the **Stanah/Hillhouse route** — with its existing infrastructure and proximity to the Irish Sea — had not been adequately assessed as a viable alternative.

The **Hillhouse Technology Enterprise Zone (HTEZ)** is a 138-hectare site designated for energy and industrial development. It offers:

- Established utilities and transport infrastructure
- Direct access to the National Grid's **Stanah 400kV substation**
- Ample land for expansion and co-location of new transmission assets
- A proven precedent — the **Walney 2 Offshore Wind Farm** has been connected here since 2012
- A protected 2km open corridor from HTEZ to the Irish Sea shore

This existing corridor, combined with Stanah's grid connectivity via twin circuit 400kV lines to Penwortham and Heysham, presents a **faster, cheaper, and less environmentally disruptive alternative**. To date, no evidence has been provided as to why this route was dismissed.

2. Requested Site Visit Locations

To allow the ExA to assess the feasibility of this alternative route, we respectfully request visits to the following:

i) Hillhouse Technology Enterprise Zone (FY5 4QP)

To observe designated development land, utility infrastructure, proximity to Stanah substation, the existing Walney 2 assets, and the 2km access corridor to the Irish Sea.
Note: This is private land. Access can be arranged via my contact details below.

ii) Junction of Fleetwood Road North and Enterprise Way (FY7 8RY)

To view the protected access route into HTEZ adjacent to Lancashire Renewables and assess the suitability of HDD (horizontal directional drilling) or similar techniques for cable landfall.

This location is publicly accessible.

iii) Rossall Promenade/Beach (FY5 1LP)

To assess the clear 2km corridor from the Irish Sea toward HTEZ and its significantly lower impact and cost compared to the proposed 30km route.

Accessible to pedestrians from Rossall Promenade public sea wall.

3. Additional Observations

We assume the ExA has either visited or is aware of the Penwortham substation and its connections to the 400kV twin circuit line across the Fylde Coastal Plain to Stanah and Heysham. If not, we recommend this be reviewed in the **National Grid Electricity Ten Year Statement 2024 – Appendix A, Figure A5**, available here:

 [ETYS Figure A5 – GB Transmission System Zones](#)

This clearly illustrates the grouping of Stanah and Penwortham substations within management **Group R4**, confirming the strategic interconnection of these assets.

We believe this site visit is critical to ensuring a fair and thorough assessment of all viable infrastructure routes — particularly one that may deliver substantial national benefits at significantly lower cost and disruption.

I would be happy to facilitate access arrangements and provide any further information required.

Yours sincerely,

Mark O'Brien



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