

MORGAN AND MORECAMBE OFFSHORE WIND FARMS: TRANSMISSION ASSETS

**Annex 5.4 to the Applicants response to Hearing Action Points: ISH1 18
Blackpool Road Recreation Ground – Summary of impacts**



**Deadline: Deadline 1
Application Reference: EN020028**

**Document Numbers:
MRCNS-J3303-JVW-19045
MOR001-FLO-CON-CAG-RPT-0063**

**Document Reference: S_D1_5.5
Rev: F01**

20 May 2025

Document status					
Version	Purpose of document	Approved by	Date	Approved by	Date
F01	Deadline 1	HK	May 2025	IM	May 2025

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Glossary

Term	Meaning
Commitment	This term is used interchangeably with mitigation and enhancement measures. The purpose of commitments is to avoid, prevent, reduce or, if possible, offset significant adverse environmental effects. Primary and tertiary commitments are taken into account and embedded within the assessment set out in the ES.
Development Consent Order	An order made under the Planning Act 2008, as amended, granting development consent.
Direct pipe	A cable installation technique which involves the use of a mini (or micro) tunnel boring machine and a hydraulic (or other) thruster rig to directly install a steel pipe between two points.
Environmental Impact Assessment	The process of identifying and assessing the significant effects likely to arise from a project. This requires consideration of the likely changes to the environment, where these arise as a consequence of a project, through comparison with the existing and projected future baseline conditions.
Environmental Statement	The document presenting the results of the Environmental Impact Assessment process.
Landfall	The area in which the offshore export cables make landfall (come on shore) and the transitional area between the offshore cabling and the onshore cabling. This term applies to the entire landfall area at Lytham St. Annes between Mean Low Water Springs and the transition joint bay inclusive of all construction works, including the offshore and onshore cable routes, intertidal working area and landfall compound(s).
Mitigation measures	This term is used interchangeably with Commitments. The purpose of such measures is to avoid, prevent, reduce or, if possible, offset significant adverse environmental effects.
Onshore export cables	The cables which would bring electricity from the landfall to the onshore substations.
Onshore export cable corridor	The corridor within which the onshore export cables will be located.
Onshore Infrastructure Area	The area within the Transmission Assets Order Limits landward of MHWS. Comprising the offshore export cable corridor from MHWS to the transition joint bay, onshore export cable corridor, onshore substations and 400 kV grid connection cable corridor, and associated temporary and permanent infrastructure including temporary and permanent compound areas and accesses. Those parts of the Transmission Assets Order Limits proposed only for ecological mitigation and/or biodiversity benefit are excluded from this area.
Onshore Order Limits	See Transmission Assets Order Limits: Onshore (below).

Acronyms

Acronym	Meaning
DCO	Development Consent Order
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EPP	Evidence Plan Process
ES	Environmental Statement
HDD	Horizontal Directional Drilling
LCA	Landscape Character Area

Units

Unit	Description
m	Metres
m ²	Metres squared

1 Blackpool Road Recreation Ground – Summary of impacts

1.1 Introduction

1.1.1.1 This note provides a summary as to the likely time, duration and the extent of the impacts on the Blackpool Road Recreation Ground.

1.1.1.2 The description of works and summary of impacts have been taken from the Environmental Statement (ES) chapters and associated documents submitted as part of the Transmission Assets application. No new assessment has been undertaken to inform this note.

1.1.1.3 This note should be read alongside the following.

- B8 Works Plans – Onshore and Intertidal Part 1 of 2 and Part 2 of 2 (document reference AS-016 and AS-017) where the Work Nos are presented graphically.

1.1.1.4 The following application documents have been utilised to produce this note:

- Volume 1, Chapter 3: Project description (document reference AS-024).
- Volume 1, Annex 5.1: Human health (document reference APP-035).
- Volume 3, Chapter 6: Land use and recreation (document reference APP-104).
- Volume 3, Annex 6.3: Published recreational resources plan technical report (document reference APP-107).
- Volume 3, Chapter 10: Landscape and visual resources (document reference APP-123).
- Volume 3, Annex 10.2: Landscape character baseline technical report (document reference APP-125).

1.2 Blackpool Road Recreation Ground – background

1.2.1.1 Table 6.14 of Volume 3, Chapter 6: Land use and recreation (APP-104) outlines that the Blackpool Road Recreation Ground is an area of designated open space associated with Blackpool Road Playing Field and Recreation Ground. The playing field is used by St. Annes Junior Football Club and also contains a skateboarding/scooter and basketball facility in the eastern part of the recreation ground.

1.2.1.2 In September 2024, the Applicants met with Fylde Council and St. Annes Football Club to discuss the management of open space at Blackpool Road Recreation Ground. The following key items were discussed:

- the current usage of Blackpool Road Recreation Ground, including requirements of relevant stakeholders;

- the potential impacts of the Transmission Assets on Blackpool Road Recreation Ground and;
- the possible management of impacts of the Transmission Assets Blackpool Road Recreation Ground.

1.2.1.3 Responses received during this technical engagement meeting were subsequently used to inform relevant sections of the ES and supporting application documentation.

1.3 Summary of the proposed works at Blackpool Road Recreation Ground

1.3.1.1 Volume, Chapter 3: Project description (document reference AS-024), Section 3.15.4 provides detail of the proposed works at Blackpool Road Recreation Ground. In addition, **Figure 1.1** below has been developed to provide a visual representation of the proposed works at this location with the anticipated timings for each element of the works as well as a summary below.

1.3.1.2 The Transmission Assets Order Limits represents the area where all components of the Transmission Assets will be located. Within the Onshore Order Limits, the areas have been divided into Work Numbers (Work Nos) to clearly define the works permitted within the draft Development Consent Order (AS-004). Works areas are shown on the Works Plans – Onshore and Intertidal (AS-014 and AS0-15). The Works Nos. related to the Blackpool Road Recreational Ground are used throughout this note, and are visually represented on Figure 1.1 below.

1.3.1.3 To minimise the potential impact to the users of Blackpool Road Recreation Ground the width of the onshore export cable corridor has been reduced. Up to four onshore export cable circuits can be permanently installed underground within Works Nos. 12A/12B, 51A/51B, 52A/52B, 53A/53B, 54A/54B and 15A/15B. The reduction from the typical onshore export cable corridor width of 100m for up to six offshore cable circuits (62m for Morgan OWL and 38m for Morecambe OWL), would be achieved by the following: reduced number of cable circuits (from six to four); the removal of a haul road through Blackpool Road Recreation Ground; and bespoke changes to the cable size, type and material properties to address potential cable heat dissipation challenges.

1.3.1.4 Additionally, the Transmission Assets have also committed to the trenchless technique installation of the onshore export cables through Blackpool Road Recreation Ground. The entry/exit pits at the western end of the recreation ground will be located in Works No. 12A/12B or 51A/51B and at the eastern end in either Work Nos. 13A/13B or Works No. 53A/53B, resulting in no proposed surface impact to Works No. 15A/15B. Up to four entry and exit pits will be established in total, one for each of the onshore export cable circuits. Note that there will never be four trenchless installations occurring at these Work Nos. at any given time due to spatial limitations.

- 1.3.1.5 The commitment of the trenchless technique installation of the cables ensures that the surface of the Blackpool Road Recreation Grounds will largely remain undisturbed during construction, as all works within Work No. 15A/15B will occur underground (**Figure 1.1**). This approach also avoids the need for extensive reinstatement works which would otherwise be required if trenchless installation was not used.
- 1.3.1.6 The total active construction duration will last for a maximum of 5 months within the overall construction duration for the onshore export cable corridor (36 months for concurrent construction and 66 months for sequential construction). The 5 months could be split into two separate periods of time for each project during the overall construction period. This maximum 5 months of active construction at Blackpool Road Recreation Ground will remain the case, regardless of the construction scenario carried out, as the spatial limitations allows for only one Applicant to carry out works within the Blackpool Road Recreation Ground at any given time.
- 1.3.1.7 To ensure public safety at the Blackpool Road Recreational Grounds, the length of the corridor between the entry and exit pits will be fenced off and secured while construction works are taking place. This fencing will be in place for a maximum of 2 months within the 5-month total construction duration for all construction scenarios.



Figure 1.1: An overview of the proposed works at Blackpool Road Recreation Ground

1.4 Measures (commitments) adopted as part of the Transmission Assets

1.4.1.1 **Table 1.1** outlines the measures (commitments) adopted as part of the Transmission Assets with regard to Blackpool Road Recreation Ground.

Table 1.1: Measures (commitments) adopted as part of the Transmission Assets

Commitment number(s)	Measure adopted	How the measure will be secured
CoT32	<p>An Outline Public Rights of Way (PRoW) Management Plan (AS-048) has been prepared as part of the Outline CoCP in order to minimise the disturbance to PRoWs, where practicable. An Outline Open Space Management Plan has been appended to the Outline PRoW Management Plan, which includes measures to minimise potential impacts to the users of Lytham St Annes beach and Blackpool Road Recreation Ground.</p> <p>With regards to the Blackpool Road Recreation Ground, the Outline Open Space Management Plan (AS-048) provides information on the process for agreeing temporary closures with the relevant Local Authorities, and stakeholders as part of the detailed PRoW Management Plan(s).</p> <p><i>n.b. Sections 1.2.3 to 1.2.5 of the Outline Open Space Management Plan contain details around signage and information, fencing and emergency accesses to be provided.</i></p>	DCO Schedules 2A & 2B, Requirement 8 (Code of Construction Practice)
CoT35	<p>An Outline Code of Construction Practice (CoCP) has been prepared and submitted with the application for development consent. Detailed CoCP(s) will be developed in accordance with the Outline CoCP. The Outline CoCP includes measures to maintain and address:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • flood protection and control measures; • water environment and drainage; • pollution prevention; • geology and ground conditions; • ecology and nature conservation (including protected species and invasive species); • historic environment; • soil management; • traffic and transport; • noise management measures; • air quality and dust management; • landscape and visual; • recreation; and • bentonite breakout. 	DCO Schedules 2A & 2B, Requirement 8 (Code of Construction Practice)
CoT123	The Project Description (Volume 1, Chapter 3 of the Environmental Statement) sets out that the installation of the Onshore Export Cable Corridor at Blackpool Road	DCO Schedules 2A & 2B, Requirement 8 (Code of Construction Practice)

Commitment number(s)	Measure adopted	How the measure will be secured
	Recreation Ground will be undertaken by HDD (or other trenchless techniques). <i>n.b. The anticipated total duration of the trenchless techniques (for both projects) is shown on Figure 1.1 and in paragraph 1.3.1.6.</i>	Practice); DCO Schedules 2A & 2B, Requirement 5 (Detailed design parameters onshore)
CoT124	The Applicants will secure mitigation for the construction activities at Blackpool Road Recreation Ground via a section 106 agreement under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 and/or section 111 agreements under the Local Government Act 1972.	Separate agreement with Fylde Borough Council

1.5 Assessment of effects

1.5.1.1 The time, duration and the extent of the impacts as presented above have been fully considered within the Environmental Statement chapters as referenced in the bullets below, with a summary of the effects as presented in the chapters provided in **Table 1.2**.

- Volume 1, Annex 5.1: Human health (APP-035), section 1.7.3: health and wellbeing effect from changes in open space and recreation;
- Volume 3, Chapter 6: Land use and recreation (APP-014), section 6.11.4: the temporary impact to the use of recreational resources; and
- Volume 3, Chapter 10: Landscape and visual resources (APP-123), section 10.12.6 visual impacts – landfall and onshore export cables, specifically, users of open space (paragraphs 10.12.6.27 – 10.12.6.30).

Table 1.2: Summary of effects with regard to Blackpool Road Recreation Ground

Description of impact	Phase ^a			Magnitude of impact	Sensitivity of the receptor	Significance of effect	Further mitigation	Residual effect	Proposed monitoring
	C	O	D						
Land use and recreation									
The temporary impact on open greenspace (Blackpool Road Playing Field)	✓	x	✓	C: Low D: Low	C: High D: High	C: Minor adverse D: Minor adverse	No further mitigation required	C: Minor adverse D: Minor adverse	No further monitoring required.
Human health									
Open space, leisure and play	✓	x	✓	C: Low D: Low	C: High D: High	C: Minor adverse D: Minor adverse	No further mitigation required	C: Minor adverse D: Minor adverse	No further monitoring required.
Landscape and visual									
People using public open space at Blackpool Road Recreation Ground	✓			C: Low to medium	C: High	C: Minor to major adverse (temporary and reversible)	No further mitigation required	C: Minor to major adverse (temporary and reversible)	No further monitoring required.