

Application by Morgan Offshore Wind Limited and Morecambe Offshore Windfarm Limited for an Order granting Development Consent for the Morgan and Morecambe Offshore Wind Farms Transmission Assets

Case Reference: EN020028

Examining Authority's (ExA) note of unaccompanied site inspection on 19, 20 and 21 May 2025

Background

A previous unaccompanied ExA site inspection took place on 18, 19 and 20 March 2025, details of which can be accessed using the following link: [\[EV1-001\]](#). A further unaccompanied site inspection has been carried out by panel lead David Cliff on 19, 20 and 21 May 2025 as he was unable to accompany the other members of the panel at their previous visit.

The main purpose of this site inspection was to gain a general understanding and familiarity of the site and its surrounds. It is therefore important to note that it was not intended to amount to a full site inspection covering all specific locations and views of the site and its surrounds that may need to be visited in due course.

As the site inspection was undertaken from publicly accessible land, advance permission to enter land was not required and the inspection could consequently be undertaken without any other parties being present.

Further locations will be visited on inspections later in the examination, including at the accompanied site inspection that is scheduled for the 25 and 26 June 2025 (see Annex C of the ExA's Rule 8 letter [\[PD-007\]](#) for further details).

Details of site inspection

The inspection was undertaken by David Cliff of the ExA. Weather conditions on all three days were generally sunny with good visibility.

The following list sets out the main route taken and locations visited during the site inspection. Stops were made at regular intervals to observe features of the site and proposed development, its surrounds and the locations of receptors including nearby residential properties and businesses.

Monday 19 May 2025 (between 3.30pm and 6.00pm)

- Observe North Beach Car Park, including location of proposed construction compound.
- Drive north along Clifton Drive North, stopping to observe locations of construction compound, residential properties and Century Healthcare Care Home adjacent to the proposed cable route.
- Observe dunes and sections of the beach.

- Squires Gate Lane and slipway, including location of Blackpool Light Craft Club.
- Observe St Annes golf club and general surrounding area from railway bridge.
- Drive along Frobisher Drive and adjacent cul-de-sacs to south of proposed cable route.
- Walk along Leach Lane observing Blackpool Airport, site works areas, residential properties and junction with Blackpool Road North.
- Drive along Appealing Lane and The Hamlet observing residential properties, Blackpool Airport and proposed cable route to the north.

Tuesday 20 May 2025 (between 8.45am and 5.30pm)

- Walk around perimeter of Blackpool Road Recreation Ground.
- Drive along Queensway (B5261) noting location of cable route and adjacent construction compounds.
- Drive along and park in Division Lane before walking a triangular route leading to the rear of residential properties, observing proposed construction compound locations and proposed cable route.
- Drive along section of B5410 observing proposed cable crossing and access route.
- Walk around Higher Ballam, observing proposed cable route and construction compounds, existing residential properties, along with location of proposed environmental mitigation areas adjacent to West Moss Lane.
- Drive south along Ballam Lane and Peg's Lane observing proposed cable route and accesses.
- Drive along Cartmell Lane and Huck Lane observing proposed cable route.
- Drive along Bryning Hall Lane, observing location of Wrea Green Equestrian Centre on Bryning Lane with cable route and construction compounds to the south.
- Drive along Hillock Lane, observing location of Helical Technology Technical Centre, Rowan Veterinary Centre and the listed Hall Cross Farmhouse adjacent to the cable route and construction compounds.
- Observe cable route crossing of Kirkham Road and the adjacent residential development at The Charltons. Observe Representative Viewpoint 8.
- Drive to Strike Lane and observe location of Strike Lane Primary School.
- Drive into Kirkham. Observe Representative Viewpoints 7 and 13, Carr Hill High School along with residential properties on Manor Drive and Roman Way.
- Park on Lower Lane and, using public footpaths, walk circular route around the proposed substation locations, leading to Preston New Road and then northwards back along Lower Lane. Observe Representative Viewpoints 12, 3, 6, 2 and 1 during walk along with views of proposed substation sites and surrounds.
- Drive along Parrox Lane to Oak Lane (Newton with Scales) observing Representative Viewpoints 4 and 5.

- Observe listed buildings on Grange Lane (Dixons Farmhouse and Dagger Cottage) including their relationship with the proposed development. Walk along Grange Lane to south and Thames Street.
- Observe location of Newton Bluecoats School on School Lane.
- Drive to Clifton observing relationship of the village with the proposed cable route. Observe proposed cable route crossing of Blackpool Road and Lodge Lane. Walk along Three Nooks Lane.

Wednesday 21 May 2025 (between 8.45am and 12 noon)

- Park at Lea Gate. Walk along Blackpool Road (A583) observing Lea Gate Service Station and locations of listed buildings at Old Lea Hall Farm. Also observing location of proposed cable route and proposed biodiversity benefit and environmental mitigation areas.
- Drive to Penwortham Substation, parking in car park at the end of Howick Cross Lane. Circular walk using public footpaths to the edge of the River Ribble, observing proposed cable route and proposed river crossing.
- Walk back up Howick Cross Lane, observing listed building at Hesketh Farmhouse. Walk sections of other public footpaths adjacent to the substation observing the proposed locations of cable routes adjacent to either side of the existing substation.

David Cliff

Lead member of the ExA